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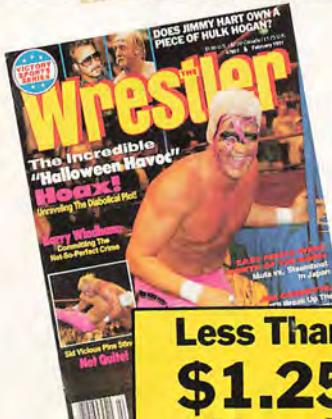
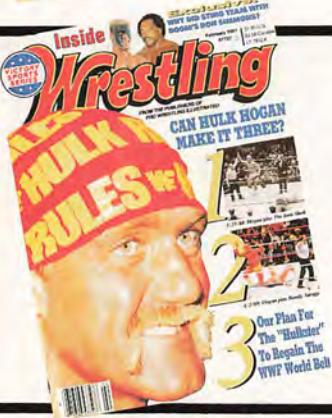
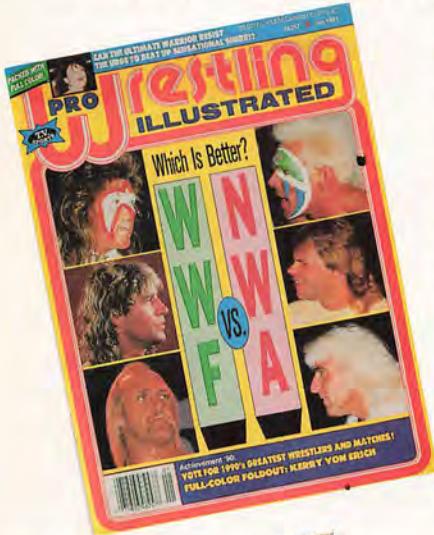
**The Pride Of A Champion:
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**Eddie Gilbert's Sadistic Vow:
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THE Wrestler

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YOUR LETTERS

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OH, JOY

I cried like a baby when Randy Savage and Elizabeth reunited at WrestleMania VII, and I cried again when I read "Tears Of Sadness, Tears Of Joy: The Bittersweet Reunion Of Randy Savage And Elizabeth" (July 1991). It was so good to



Reader Sandra Nottingham hopes that Elizabeth never again leaves "Macho King" Randy Savage's side.

see them get together again. It was like they had never parted.

Savage must regret ever having taken Sensational Sherri. Like she proved in the end, she is nothing more than a snake. She's only out for what is good for her, not for what's good for anybody she manages. Savage learned it; Ted DiBiase will learn it.

As for Elizabeth, it's so good to see her back where she belongs. She is the queen of wrestling, as far as I'm concerned. I hope she doesn't go away again.

SANDRA NOTTINGHAM
New Britain, CT

TERRIBLE TOTOS

Why on earth did you give John Tolos so much space for an interview ("Q & A," July 1991)? He's a nobody, a nothing! I don't care if he does manage a fine group of wrestlers like Bob Orton, Cactus Jack, and The Power Twins. He's a bum, and I'd like to shove that whistle of his down his throat!

Back in the '60s and '70s, I understand, Tolos was a terror. Now he's just terrible.

HARLAN BENTLEY
Frankfort, KY



John Tolos tries to rough up Sunny Beach. Reader Harlan Bentley thinks *The Wrestler* shouldn't have interviewed Tolos.

SHATTERED

"Can Ric Flair Shatter The 'Myth' Of Japanese Superiority?" (July 1991). From what I saw at Super Brawl, I would say yes!

As IWGP champion, Fujinami is the best the Japanese have to offer,



WCW World champion Ric Flair's victory over IWGP titlist Tatsumi Fujinami reaffirmed for reader Sarah Eagle Flair's greatness as a champion.

and Flair beat him soundly. Sure, he may have held Fujinami's trunks to get the job done, but all in all it was a solid victory for a solid WCW World champion.

I would also like to add that I think Flair would win just as convincingly over men like The Great Muta and Jushin Riger. Those guys are admittedly sensational, but Flair is a master. He knows it all and he's seen it all. These Japanese have never faced anything like him.

There is only one true world champion: Ric Flair.

SARAH EAGLE
Houston

A VOTE FOR VON ERICH

I am a big fan of the Von Erichs, especially Kevin. I think he is the greatest wrestler of all-time. I've been a big fan of Kevin's since the first time I saw him, back in 1982.

You magazine people act as though Kevin is dead and gone. You seem to have forgotten what a great wrestler he is. You never try to support him.

Kevin is going to fly again, even higher than before. Look out, wres-

tling world: Your forgotten hero will return better than ever!

JOEY McLENNAN
Lynn, MA

PRICKLY CACTUS

I was glad to see Cactus Jack in your "X-Ray" feature (July 1991). Cactus is by far the wildest and craziest star to come along in a long time. He does whatever wacky move he wants to do, without any regard for his body. It's outrageous, but it's also admirable.

There is room in wrestling for only one guy like him, though, and I'm glad. I don't think anybody could do what he does.

FRANKLIN STAFFORD
Knoxville, TN

HOLD IT, BOYS

Hawk and Animal shouldn't be in such a hurry.

(Continued on page 48)



Reader Joey McLennan doesn't want fans to forget about Kevin Von Erich, whom he calls a hero and the greatest wrestler of all-time.

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

By BILL APTER

HUGE RULEBREAKER **SID VICIOUS** shocked the wrestling world with his decision to enter the WWF. Even more startling, though, was the 6'8" giant's actions in his first two WWF appearances: He's become a fan favorite!

The former **Skyscraper** and **Four Horsemen** member wasn't scheduled to wrestle in the WWF until June, but he couldn't help but get involved during a pair of May television tapings.

On May 28 at the Convention Center in Tucson, Arizona, **The Mountie** had just defeated young **Stephen DeLeon** and was standing in the ring challenging anyone to come into the ring and "taste his law."

The fans were stunned when Vicious walked out of the dressing room and slowly walked up the aisle. When Vicious reached the ring, he rocked Mountie with several clotheslines, then lifted Mountie over his head with one hand and tossed him to the mat. Mountie retreated to the dressing room in terror, and Vicious stood alone in the ring—and was rewarded for his efforts by a standing ovation.

Vicious obviously liked the



Sid Vicious, whose last WCW appearance came at Super Brawl '91, quickly made his presence felt in the WWF, confronting **The Mountie** and **Earthquake** on successive nights. sound of the cheers, because the next night at the State University Activity Center in Tempe, Arizona, he answered the challenge of another member of **Jimmy Hart's** stable. There, huge **Earthquake** stood in the ring, grabbed the microphone, and issued warnings to several WWF stars. Vicious stormed the ring. Earthquake smashed Vicious with fists several times, but Vicious didn't budge.



Bobby Heenan (above left) has quit managing, but says he will continue in the broadcast booth. "The Brain" gave the contract of his top charge, I-C champion Curt Hennig, to John Tolos (above right).

Vicious lifted the 462-pound Canadian with ease and rocked him with a tremendous bodyslam. When Earthquake and Hart ran to the dressing room in terror, the fans rewarded Vicious with a rousing ovation that lasted for minutes.

"We're all seeing a remarkable change in Sid," said a WWF source. "In the past, everyone could tell that Vicious enjoyed hearing the cheers, and now we know how much. I guess you could say he's always been a fan favorite at heart, but he never knew how to gain their support. Well, he's done it now by challenging Mountie and Earthquake. In fact, he's so determined to wipe out Hart's stable that he's contemplating changing his name to **Sid Justice**. He really seems to want to be a law-and-order guy now."

For more insight into Vicious' "new" attitude, don't miss the "Q & A" interview on page 20.

Vicious may be out to rid the WWF of Jimmy Hart, but he won't have a chance to do damage to the **Bobby Heenan** "family." The "Weasel" has retired! Heenan surprised the WWF by giving the contract of Intercontinental champion **Curt Hennig** to **Coach John**



Tolos, after which he announced that he wanted to become a full-time broadcaster. Heenan's decision apparently left the other members of his stable, **Haku** and **The Barbarian**, as free agents.

"Heenan's taken his share of poundings from **Big Bossman** and **Kerry Von Erich** lately," said the source. "He's getting older now, and he can't take it anymore. He's

leaving 'Mr. Perfect' in good hands with Tolos, who proved he still had a brilliantly calculating mind during his short stint in the UWF." Tolos is also managing former AWA tag team champions **Wayne Bloom** and **Mike Enos**.

Who is **Fantasia**? That's been the question on WCW fans' minds since the new masked member of

(Continued on page 52)

STEVE ANDERSON'S VIEW



NO HOLDS BARRED

with David Rosenbaum



It is well-known to readers of this column that Dave Rosenbaum despises snakes, but even *he* was disgusted when Earthquake crushed Jake Roberts' pet, Damian, to death.

IT'S TIME TO draw the line on Earthquake. My comments about Earthquake's murder of Damian, Jake Roberts' pet snake ("Jake vs. 'Quake—Oh, That Poor Snake!" August 1991 *Wrestling Superstars*) have already attracted considerable attention and might have seemed out of line. But rest assured that when Earthquake did the evil deed to Damian, I had no idea he killed the poor snake.

Did I say *poor* snake?

Listen, snakes are horrible creatures. It wouldn't bother me if every last one of them was wiped out in some bizarre snake apocalypse (yeah, I know, they're part of the natural food chain and

serve a purpose in control of the rodent population. I don't care!).

The point I'd like to make here, though, is that cruelty to animals, even snakes, is never acceptable. Earthquake's actions are, simply stated, reprehensible.

There you have it, from the biggest snake-hater of all-time.

When Earthquake appeared on *Prime-Time Wrestling* with Damian's skin, I was appalled. I even felt a little sorry for Roberts (even though he isn't deserving of sympathy; any man who wraps a boa constrictor around opponents' bodies belongs in jail, as far as I'm concerned).

I was even more appalled by the now-infamous "Quakeburgers"

incident, in which Earthquake, chef's hat and all, served up burgers allegedly made from Damian's innards.

Disgusting!

Yes, the very concept of snakeburgers is disgusting (I'm sure they taste like chicken, but that's not the point).

The point is: If somebody made burgers out of my cat, I'd be very upset. I can only imagine what kind of grief Roberts experienced when he saw this.

Pets are pets! McDonalds is McDonalds! And never the twain shall meet!

In a way, Earthquake should be commended for controlling the
(Continued on page 54)

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PEOPLE CHANGE ALL the time, and wrestlers change more often than most people do. But when a man who previously had been an outstanding person turns sour for no apparent reason, it can be pretty hard to accept.

I just can't accept the way Rick Morton is acting right now.

For some reason, the news about Morton's shocking turn to rulebreaking had escaped my ears. So when I spotted Morton at The Omni in Atlanta on May 27, his reaction to my presence came as a total shock. As usual, I walked over to him and extended my hand, but this time the former Rock 'n' Roll Express member declined the offer of friendship.

"What do you want?" he said curtly.

"Nothing really, Rick," I responded, startled by Morton's callous attitude. "I just wanted to see how you were doing."

"I was doin' fine till I saw you," he said. He walked into the dressing room without even looking me in the face.



Rick Morton

What happened with Morton? Actually, I guess we can blame Alexandra York and her band of computerized thugs: They pushed dollar bills under Morton's nose, he sniffed and was hooked.

In May, Ms. York waved her computer at Morton, and he left ringside right when Bobby Eaton and Dustin Rhodes were being brutally pounded by Arn Anderson and Terrence (Don't Call Me Terry Anymore) Taylor.

If fans were confused then, they would be outraged after witnessing Morton's actions at The Omni card.

Rhodes, who has teamed with Rick often during the past few months, defeated Taylor by disqualification when beefy Mr. Hughes interfered. Dustin, who improves with every match, grabbed the zoot-suited Hughes by the lapels and was giving him the thrashing of his life when Morton ran to the ring and helped Hughes bloody Dustin horribly. Rhodes was about to lose consciousness when Big Josh, of all people, stormed the ring with his axhandle to run Morton and Hughes back to the dressing room.

I couldn't believe my eyes. Morton has become a full-fledged rulebreaker! And what *really* disturbs me is the fact that Morton has let down his friends: Rhodes, Tommy Rich, Junkyard Dog, and Robert Gibson—especially Gibson.

Since September 1990, Gibson has been out of action with torn ligaments and cartilage in his right knee. He has worked tirelessly since then, hoping for the day when he could reform the Express with Morton. He's close to being ready to make a comeback, but now Gibson wonders if his hard work has all been for naught.

"I haven't heard from Ricky in months," said Gibson bitterly when I asked him about Morton's situation. "He got a little frustrated by some singles losses, particularly when he got beat by Dan Spivey at Super Brawl. But that's no excuse for what he's doing now. I really think that if I can just talk to Rick, I can straighten him out."

Thus far, the suddenly reclusive Morton isn't giving Gibson the chance—or me, or anybody else, for that matter. He's become a surly, downright unapproachable man. That's not the Morton I recall.

The Morton I prefer to remember was a proud, athletic competitor who teamed with Gibson to form one of the greatest tag teams ever. Four WCW World tag team titles is the proof of that. He also had as much fan support as any wrestler I've ever seen. He may have gained a few dollars, but he's lost his fans, his friends, and probably Gibson, too.

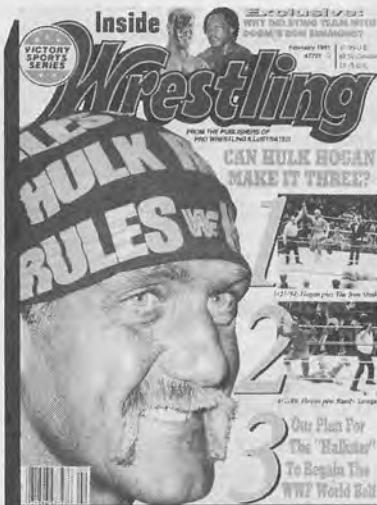
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Thumbs Up

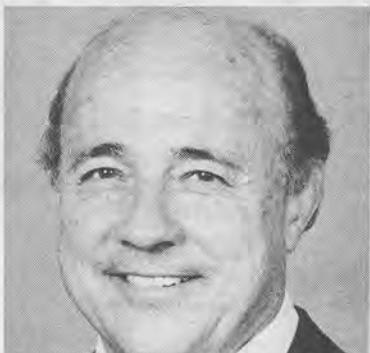
Each issue, *The Wrestler* will praise the noteworthy and damn those who violate the honor of wrestling. The praiseworthy receive a Thumbs Up, the disgraceful are marked with a Thumbs Down. Here is this month's roll of honor and shame.



Thumbs Up to Bobby Eaton. His victory over Arn Anderson for the WCW TV title was more than the culmination of his steady rise as a singles wrestler after many successful years with The Midnight Express. It was an important victory for the TV title, which had been rendered practically dormant by Anderson. Our sincerest hope here isn't that Eaton has a long reign, but that he has a *prosperous* reign, filled with title defenses both in the arena and on TV. Too often that's forgotten: The TV title should be defended on TV as often as possible. That's the meaning of the belt.



Thumbs Up to Scott Steiner. A hearty tip of the hat to Scott for his sportsman-like actions at Super Brawl '91 in St. Petersburg, Florida. Nikita Koloff's actions led to Steiner's pin of Sting, which enabled Rick and Scott to retain the WCW World tag team title against Sting and Lex Luger. After the match, Scott apologized to Sting. In the heat of battle, Scott had no idea that Koloff had brutalized Sting with a chain. When Scott apologized and Sting accepted, we saw sportsmanship at its best. That alone was worth the price of admission.



Thumbs Up to Verne Gagne. Age is no deterrent to the nine-time former AWA champion. Challenged by youth, Gagne proved that bravery knows no time barriers. He stood up to the tough and arrogant Mike Enos when Enos started to taunt him before a recent match. Gagne tried to control himself, but finally let loose and slugged Enos. The crowd went wild, and Verne's body seemed to swell with pride. It's terrific to see that Verne still has the same young and fighting heart that made him one of this sport's all-time greats.



Thumbs Up to Rick Steamboat. His occasional "retirements" confuse fans, but when Steamboat comes back to the ring, he's always better than ever. Now in the WWF, Steamboat is a little too flashy with that dragon outfit; we could do without it. But his wrestling is top-notch. He is well on his way to challenging for another major title. Steamboat doesn't let wrestling's rugged year-round schedule dictate his style. He takes appropriate breaks to rejuvenate himself, then returns for short but brilliant periods. His latest comeback has been outstanding, and we can't wait to see the rest of it.

Thumbs Down



Thumbs Down to "Diamond" Dallas Page. The Freebirds have once again made a mockery of a proud title—this time the WCW U.S. tag title—and their evil manager is the one to blame. He is obviously the brains behind their horrible deeds. He sent out Big Daddy Dink with Michael Hayes and Jim Garvin to weaken Tracey Smothers and Steve Armstrong prior to their Super Brawl title match. He is hiding the identity of Fantasia, the newest Freebird; there is no room for such secrecy in wrestling. And there is certainly no room for men like "Diamond" Dallas Page.



Thumbs Down to Earthquake. Call in the ASPCA! Hide your pets! Earthquake is on a rampage, and he obviously doesn't care if he has to kill an animal or two in the process! His murder of Damian, Jake Roberts' pet boa constrictor, and his subsequent gloating over this horrible action have made a nation of animal lovers positively sick! He brought out a snakeskin that he claimed was once Damian. Then he served 'Quakeburgers, supposedly made of meat from the departed snake. Snakeburgers are disgusting. Pet snakeburgers are even worse. And Earthquake makes our stomachs turn, cuisine or no cuisine.



Thumbs Down to Col. DeBeers. The South African madman is at it again. Of course, it's when DeBeers *isn't* on a course of destruction and prejudice that we start to wonder what's going on. Recently (and he did this all in one match), DeBeers slugged a referee, then hung Soul Train Phillips from the ropes by his belt before giving him a face-first piledriver on the floor. Does DeBeers sit at home thinking up these crimes, or does it just come naturally? Either way, the time has come for all of wrestling to ban this prejudiced thug.



Thumbs Down to Irwin R. Shyster. This ring attire—shirt, tie, and suspenders—must go! Imagine a baseball player taking the field in a tuxedo. Or a football player wearing a pair of slacks and a polo shirt. Obviously, it wouldn't be allowed. But the rules of wrestling are very lax, and Shyster is taking advantage of them. Too bad, both for the sport and for Shyster. He looks ridiculous, although he doesn't seem to know it. There's also no doubt that it's cramping his wrestling style. □

CORRESPONDENTS

REPORTS



Bret Hart goes airborne against Hercules as The Hart Foundation battled Power & Glory in England.

Brighton, England (Correspondent—Caroline Bishop): The WWF's "U.K. Rampage" tour invaded the Brighton Centre, and it was a rumble in Brighton this night as The Hart Foundation battled Power & Glory.

Bret "The Hitman" Hart and Paul Roma led off for their respective teams, pounding away at each other with shoulderblocks. As usual, Hercules wanted to play dirty. Several times, he tried to grab Bret as "The Hitman"

bounded off the ropes. Later, Hercules entered the ring and beat up on Hart while he was being held down by Roma. Unable to take seeing his partner at such a disadvantage, Jim Neidhart entered the ring to even the score.

When Hart had the cover on Roma, Hercules came in and put Roma on top of Hart. Then, as the referee was escorting Hercules out of the ring, Neidhart came in and placed Hart back on top of Roma. After the ref counted to three, Hercules raised his hands in victory, thinking that Power & Glory had won the match. Then he saw Roma sitting on the canvas, shaking his head in disappointment, and he knew what had happened.

In other bouts: Davey Boy Smith defeated The Undertaker by disqualification ... Intercontinental champion Curt Hennig beat Tito Santana ... Hacksaw Duggan defeated The Berzerker ... The Bushwhackers beat Demolition ... Haku defeated Koko B. Ware ... The Barbarian beat Greg Valentine.

Atlanta, GA (Correspondent—Ed Crawford): It was a mentor-student battle at The Omni as WCW World champion Ric Flair took on "Flyin'" Brian Pillman, the young man he once befriend-

ed, then later betrayed.

Pillman started off strong in this best-of-three-falls contest. Flair's infamous chops nearly lifted him in the air, but Pillman stood up to the champion with some hard chops of his own. At one point, he threw Flair out of the ring and into the ringpost, opening up a cut on the champ's head. Pillman dominated the initial fall, and scored the pin with a superb flying bodypress.

After a 30-second rest period, fall number two began. Flair exploited a Pillman weakness by tossing him through the ropes and banging his oft-injured left shoulder into the ringpost. Unable to get back in the ring promptly, Pillman was counted out.

The third and deciding fall was the most evenly fought of the bout. As usual, though, it was Flair's craftiness that won him the match. In covering Pillman for the pin, the champion placed both feet on the top rope, unbeknownst to the referee. Once again, Pillman, despite wrestling brilliantly, had been thwarted.

In other bouts: WCW TV champion Bobby Eaton beat Jacko Victory ... Dustin Rhodes defeated Terrence Taylor by disqualification ... Stan Hansen pinned Tommy Rich ... Missy Hyatt beat Paul E. (Continued on page 56)

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Q: "My question is for Ric Flair: Speaking as a seven-time World champion and a man who has taken on all comers, who has been your most difficult challenger and why?"—Leanne Davis, Orilla, Ontario

A: "First of all, let me say that I've never met a man I couldn't handle," said Flair with predictable immorality. "Even my most formidable opponents eventually give in to my greatness. The one guy who did give me a rough time, though, was Rick Steamboat back in 1989. He was very quick and had some moves that even I hadn't seen before. He beat me a couple of times when I first faced him, but after a few matches I figured him out and



WCW World champion Ric Flair acknowledges that Rick Steamboat was one of the toughest opponents he ever faced.

made him another one of my many victims. More recently, Sting gave me a good match when he took my belt last year. The problem was that I took him too lightly. After that match, I concentrated on beating him. We all know what happened at the Meadowlands—I got back my title!"

Q: "I would like to ask Editor-in-Chief Craig Peters whether he thinks Intercontinental champion

YOU ASKED US

This is the monthly feature that answers ALL your most important questions about the mat sport, the stars, and the feuds. Send us your most perplexing queries and we'll have them answered for you by the world's finest grapplers and most insightful mat reporters. Address your questions to: YOU ASKED US, c/o THE WRESTLER, P.O. Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571.

Curt Hennig should pursue the WWF World title. I think he's very capable of becoming champion."—Cheryl Esperancilla, Palm Coast, FL

A: "There's no doubt that 'Mr. Perfect' has the ability to challenge for any title if he sets his mind to it,"



If Curt Hennig went all-out in pursuit of Hulk Hogan's WWF World title, he'd risk losing his Intercontinental belt.

Peters answered. "I don't know whether he would take the risk of going for the World title, however. Right now, Hennig is doing a credible job as I-C champion, and there's no real reason for him to move on to the World belt. If he tries to add another belt, he could spread himself too thin and lose what he already has. There are so many fine wrestlers in the WWF that Hennig should be grateful to have a title all his own. Hulk Hogan is a huge obstacle standing in Hennig's way. After battling Davey Boy Smith and Kerry Von Erich, that's just too big a risk to take."

Q: "My question is for Barry Windham: If you get a shot at Ric Flair's WCW World title now that The Four Horsemen have broken



Barry Windham has no reservations about challenging Flair for the WCW World title.

up, what makes you think you can beat him?"—Dan Curtain, Acton, MA

A: "I didn't let my time with the Horsemen go to waste," said Windham with a chuckle. "Even as I was doing my best—and I always did my best—to help Ric keep his title, I always kept a close eye on him. I watched him real

(Continued on page 58)

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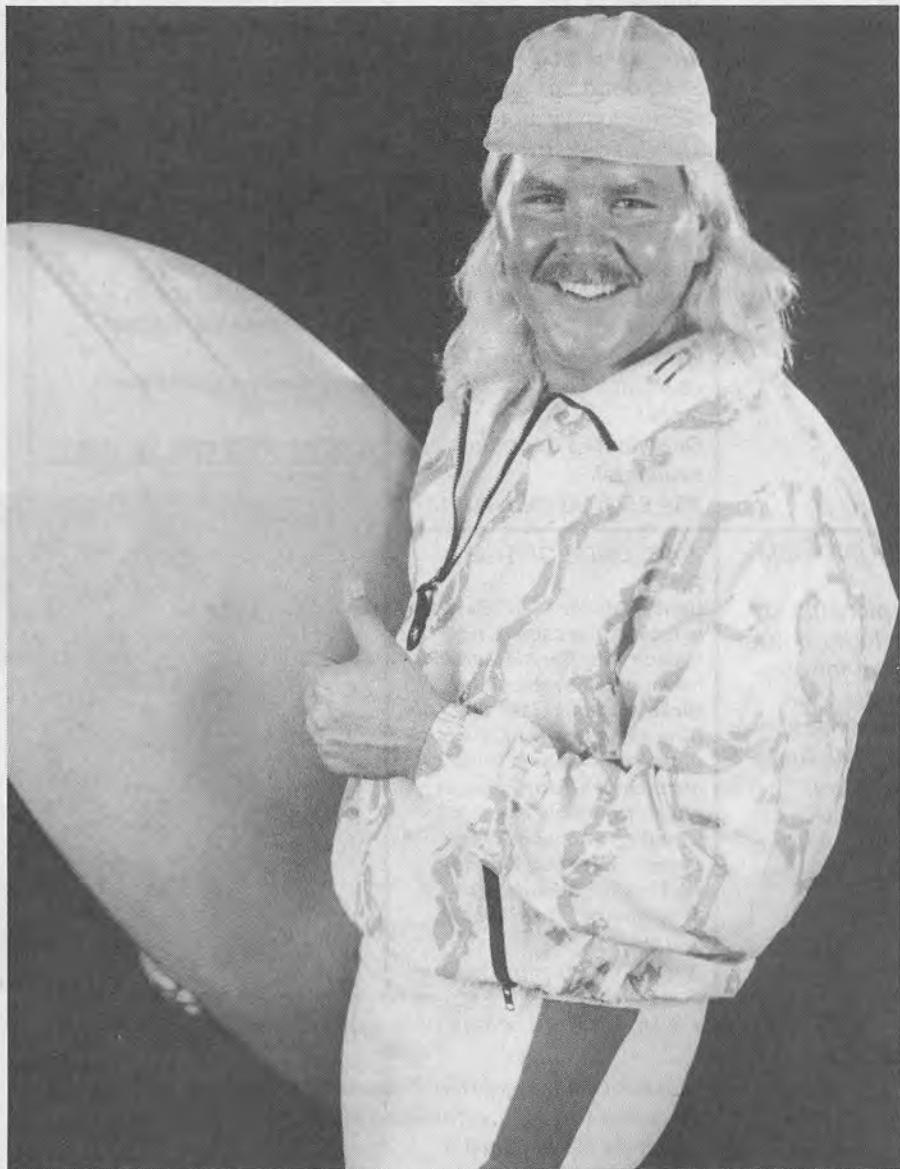
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INTRODUCING

SUNNY BEACH



Sunny Beach enjoys the sun and surf almost as much as he relishes the mayhem of the mat. Indeed, Beach wrestles a hectic schedule on the independent circuit.

ANOTHER DAY, ANOTHER journey for the well-traveled Sunny Beach. The rugged 270-pounder had just finished battling maniacal Cactus Jack at a New York arena, and the effects of this violent match were all over Beach's face. The doctor offered to sew stitches to close Beach's cuts, but the wrestler grabbed a box of bandages and threw on his jacket.

"No time, doc," said Beach as he scurried out the door. "I got a match in Florida in two days."

Such is life for this 6'4" former lifeguard, whose unique "surfer" image has endeared him to the fans. Beach currently is one of the most in-demand athletes on the independent circuit. In the past few months, he's appeared in the UWF, IWCCW, IWA, Peach State wrestling, and almost everywhere there's been an independent card.

"I love to stay busy," said Beach, a talented six-year veteran. "Every time I stay in the same place for very long, I get a little edgy and want to hit the road again. But everywhere I go, one thing is the same: the

(Continued on page 60)

Riding a wave of fan support, popular Sunny Beach is one of the busiest competitors in the sport today. If you attend an independent card anywhere in the United States, chances are Beach will be on it. And the more he travels, the more this fine athlete seems to like it!

Photos by Al Bello & Bill Apter

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Q&A

Each month, *The Wrestler* will present a "Question and Answer" forum with an important figure in the wrestling world. It is your chance to meet wrestling's biggest stars as they answer the questions uppermost in the fans' minds



Sid Vicious manhandles U.S. champion Lex Luger. Vicious is hoping to be just as dominant against competition like Hulk Hogan, Ultimate Warrior, and other WWF competitors.

Q: Sid, your sudden decision to leave WCW for the WWF comes as something of a surprise. Why are you going to the WWF?

A: You know, Bill, I've had a pretty good relationship with you over the past couple of years, so I'll try to keep my cool even if your questions are pretty dumb.

Q: What was so stupid about that question?

A: Well, think about what you asked me. Look at what's happened to me during the past few months. I worked myself as hard as I ever have in my life to make myself a contender. I beat Lex Luger to within an inch of his worthless life, and I came within a millimeter of winning that U.S. title. When Sting was champion, I gave him the hardest matches of his title reign. But lately, I haven't seen many title opportunities pass my way, and I'm frustrated. Stretcher matches against Gigante aren't going to bring me any closer to the WCW title than I was before.

Q: Neither will losing to Gigante in two minutes and 13 seconds.

A: Yeah, well, I was distracted. In the corner of my eye, I could see One Man Gang and Kevin Sullivan near the dressing room door, and I just knew they were going to get involved somehow. What business did those slugs have sticking their noses in my match? But I guess it



SID VICIOUS

IT'S QUITE A reputation, but one that's been justly earned. Ask any fan—or, for that matter, any wrestler—who the most feared man in the sport is. Most likely the person will name Sid Vicious.

And why not? At 6'8" and an awesomely muscular 318 pounds, Vicious has spent most of the past two years tearing up wrestlers in WCW. From his formation of The Skyscrapers with Dan Spivey to his stint as a member of The Four Horsemen to his feud with 7'7" El Gigante,

Vicious built a reputation as a monster—and relished it.

Vicious became so sure of his crippling power that he began having a team of paramedics accompany him to the ring for every match. More often than not, his injured opponents—victims of his crushing power bomb—took rides back to the dressing room on stretchers.

It's been Vicious, however, who has been doing the traveling of late. After losing to El Gigante at Super Brawl '91 on May 19 in St. Petersburg, Florida, the huge rulebreaker announced he would soon be entering the WWF. Senior Editor Bill Apter spoke with Vicious the day after the pay-per-view event to find out the reason for the big man's sudden switch of federations.

doesn't matter now, because my mind is made up. I'm going to the WWF, and just wait and see if I don't become the biggest thing to hit that federation in years.

Q: Literally and figuratively, I'm sure. What is it about the WWF that made you decide to compete there?

A: Weren't you listening to me earlier? Like I said before, titles are what I'm after right now. It was a big disappointment to me when Spivey and I didn't win the WCW World tag team title, and you know I didn't get enough chances for the World belt. I'm fed up, and I'm going to start fresh in the WWF. I'm just going to work hard, take my matches as they come, and I'm sure I'll be a contender for Hulk Hogan's WWF belt given time. Everybody knows I didn't get my amount of fair shots against [Ric] Flair.

Q: That desire of yours leads to some obvious questions, though. You were an important member of The Four Horsemen, and it's widely known that you and Flair were very close.

A: Sure. We always got along very well.

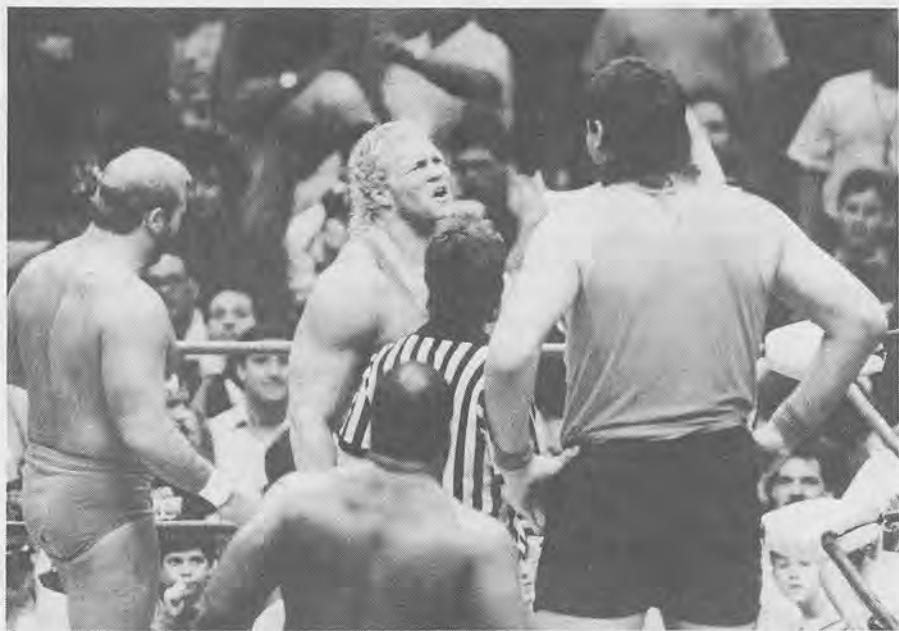
Q: Did you ever go to WCW officials and ask them for a title match against Ric?

A: No, I don't recall that I ever did that.

Q: Then how can you be upset that



Vicious blames his quick loss to 7'7" El Gigante at Super Brawl '91 on the threat of interference from One Man Gang and Kevin Sullivan.



you never got a title opportunity against Flair? After all, you ran to the ring to interfere on Flair's behalf many times.

A: That's right, and I was always paid very handsomely for it. The thing is, though, I *earned* a chance at Flair's title. My record for most of the past seven months was terrific. Nobody ever beat me—not Luger, not Sting, not anybody. On top of that, I was one of the hottest attractions in WCW, and I knew it. Every time I got down on one knee and asked the fans to applaud for me, they always did. So I was bringing the fans out to the arenas.

Q: I've never understood why the fans react to you the way they do. You're a fine wrestler and as powerful as anybody I've ever seen, but your tactics are disgraceful.

A: Oh, I don't know about that. What did I ever do that was so bad? Sure, my power bomb could knock the air out of a zeppelin, but that's not an illegal maneuver. I can't help it if the effects are so devastating. I'm not that bad of a guy, and I think the fans know that.

Q: Now I've heard *everything*. But let's get out of the past and talk about the future. The prospects of a match between you and Hulk Hogan would surely excite a lot of fans out there . . .

Vicious particularly despised Gigante (above) and Sting (below). Now that he's in the WWF, Sid arrogantly claims he'd have no problem defeating Intercontinental champion Curt Hennig.



A: Sure. But they wouldn't be half as excited about it as *I* would.

Q: And rightfully so. However, Hogan has a big edge in experience. And he displays some pretty astute wrestling knowledge from time to time. I think the most scientific hold you ever used was a choke.

A: Don't be so sure about that. Think back to my CWA days for a

minute. Back in '88, I used to use a legdrop from the second rope all the time. That's a pretty devastating maneuver for a guy my size, and I'm sure it's much more effective than Hogan's normal legdrop. In addition to that, I know a Japanese sleeperhold that can render even the biggest guy helpless. If Hogan ever got caught with either of those—or in my power bomb—he'd be *cooked*.

Q: What about "Mr. Perfect" Curt Hennig? Are you interested in his Intercontinental title?

A: Right now, I want any belt that's got some gold on it, Apter. Personally, I don't think that would be much of a match at all.

Q: Are you serious? Hennig is one of the greatest technical masters anywhere!

A: Maybe. But like they say, a good little man can *never* beat a good big man. What's Hennig's weight, about 235? That's no match for me. I don't care what kinds of holds he'd try to put on me, they just wouldn't be effective against a man of my mass. I'd crush the guy, and maybe that would be a good starting point for me. I'd have to imagine that getting title matches against Hennig would be easier than those against Hogan.

Q: Getting matches against either of those champions would probably be easier if you hired a manager, though. Are you considering joining forces with any of the WWF managers?

A: Actually, I'm not. When I first came to WCW, I used Teddy Long as my manager. He did pretty well for me at first, but when I suffered my punctured lung back in '89, the little peanut head dropped me without saying so much as goodbye. I never forgave the little runt for doing that, and that's a big reason why I never hired a manager after that. Even though I'm going to the WWF, I still don't think I want to get a manager. I'm an independent per-

son, after all. Nobody—and I mean *nobody*—tells Sid Vicious what to do. I know how to wrestle, and I know which holds will win a match for me. Why drain away 10 to 30 percent of my income to have somebody around tell me what I already know? I can decide who I want to wrestle and where I want to do it. Right now, all I want to do is get in that ring and start winning.

Q: What are your opinions on some of the other WWF stars you'll probably have to face in the coming months? How about Big Bossman?

A: Hey, he's a great wrestler. I'm really impressed with the way he lost all that fat to get into fighting trim. He's big and tough, and I'm sure he'd give me one hell of a match. He's miles ahead of that other stooge they have there, the guy dressed in the red Canadian policeman's outfit.

Q: You must be talking about The Mountie.

A: Yeah, that's the guy. What a wimp! Running around jabbing people with a cattle prod is no way to win wrestling matches. On my worst day, you never saw me use a foreign object against anybody.

Q: Maybe not a foreign object, but you weren't above using a foreign *body*. I'll never forget Barry Windham as an impostor Sting at Halloween Havoc '90.

A: Hey, I had nothing to do with that! That was a plot cooked up by Flair and Arn [Anderson]! It was just another way of them keeping me away from the WCW title. Well, those days are over, 'cause I'm outta there. I'm gonna be on my own in the WWF, and I have a feeling I'm gonna love every minute of it.

Q: I guess all I can do now is thank you for the interview and wish you lots of luck.

A: The interview was cool, but you can keep your luck. I'm one guy who makes his own. □

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STEVE KEIRN



FOR LONGTIME FANS of the sport, Steve "Gator" Keirn is best known as a tag team wrestler, a member of The Fabulous Ones along with Stan Lane. But Keirn is also an outstanding singles competitor who has held the PWF Florida title since July 1989.

"Yeah, almost two years. I guess that is pretty long," Keirn said modestly, "but I never think about it much. I just go out there and defend the belt the best way I know how. Whenever you hold a title, you have to go day by day with it."

However, Keirn may have forfeited

the Florida title by the time you read this. At press time, "Gator" was expected to sign with the WWF. It would be his first tour of duty with that federation.

"On May 13, I lost a loser-leaves-USWA match to Tom Prichard," Keirn said, "and I only lost because of Eric Embry's interference. The stipulation was that I had to leave for 30 days. Well, I don't want to wait around that long, especially when I didn't lose honestly. I have to look out for my career."

In Keirn's recent career, his and Lane's reunion as The Fabulous Ones

started off well: They won the USWA tag team title from Doug Gilbert and Tony Anthony. But the reunion faltered when the Fabs' manager, Jim Cornette, insisted that Keirn become more of a rulebreaker.

"I hooked up with Stan again for Stan's sake, not for Cornette's," Keirn said emphatically. "I thought it would be fun to see if we could do it again. Turned out we hadn't lost a step. After we won those belts, I thought we were well-established as a team."

"Then Cornette tried to take too much control," Keirn continued. "I never trusted him, but Stan said he was okay and that was okay with me. But it was becoming obvious to me that I couldn't let myself be led around by that guy."

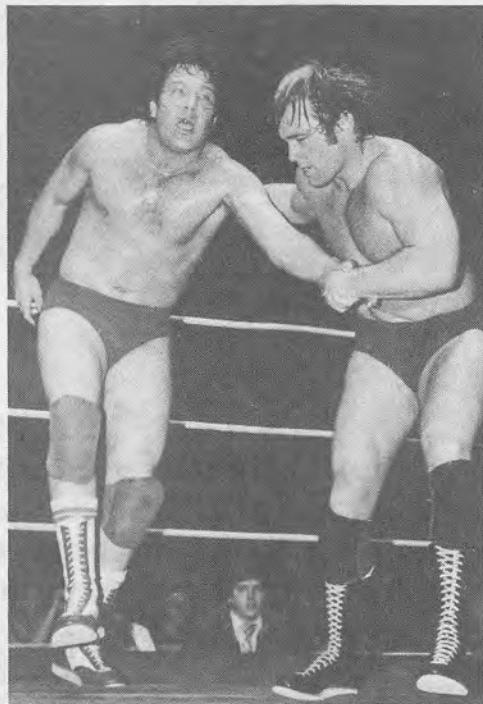
Keirn's final match as a Fabulous One was a losing effort to Al Perez and Buddy Landell on May 18 in Philadelphia. The Fabs had been declared the winners when Lane pinned Perez, but the referee reversed the decision when the fans informed him that Cornette had hit Perez with the tennis racket.

"That was the last straw," Keirn said. "I got fed up with Jim's constant interference. I felt kind of bad about parting ways with Stan, but it was something I had to do."

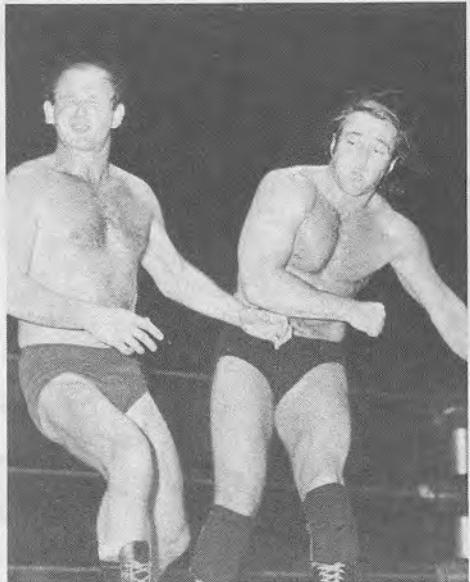
On the facing page, *The Wrestler* is proud to "Spotlight" some of the highlights from Keirn's magnificent 18-year career. □



December 1974: Keirn slams Terry Garvin, a rival from his early days in Georgia.



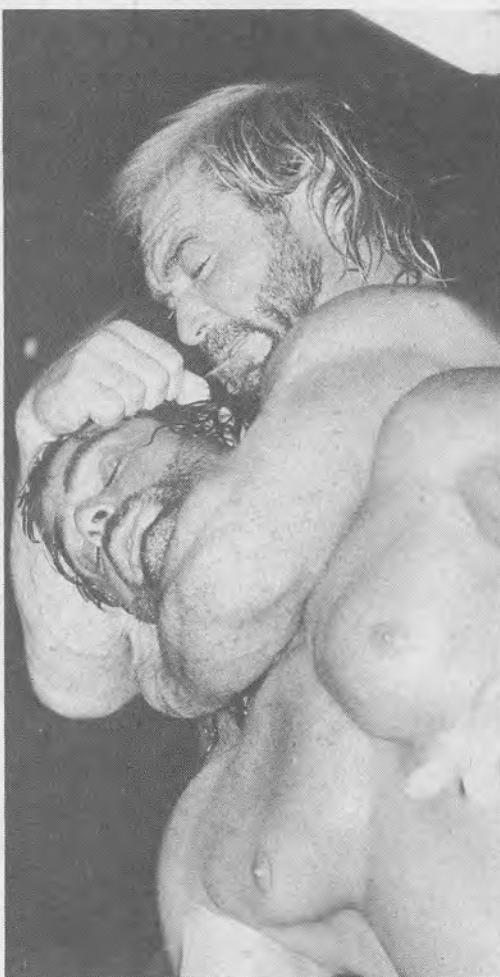
March 1981: Long before Ted DiBiase was the "Million-Dollar Man," Keirn made him feel like two cents.



May 1981: This bout in Florida was one of Keirn's finest efforts against former WCW (then NWA) World champion Dory Funk Jr.



July 1981: Former World champ Harley Race ends up on the wrong end of a Keirn piledriver.



November 1990: One of Keirn's more difficult PWF title defenses came against fellow fan favorite "Lightning" Lou Perez.



February 1991: After The Fabulous Ones re-united, Keirn locked up with Eddie Gilbert, who first opposed him in the mid-'80s.

THE WRESTLER PANEL EXAMINES

RAY



**DR. TOM
PRICHARD**

Each month
THE WRESTLER'S panel of experts
will offer their candid opinions of one
of wrestling's stars. Whether an up-and-coming
youngster or an established superstar in his own right,
our panel will always be frank and honest without fear of reprisal



All the "X-Ray" panelists agree that Dr. Tom Prichard (struggling to prevent Jeff Jarrett from tagging out to Robert Fuller) has a lot of natural talent, but they disagree over the way he uses that ability.



CAPT. LOU ALBANO

"Sure, this guy's got a lot of talent, but his attitude makes me blow my cookies, daddy. He has as much natural talent as anyone I've ever seen, but he prefers to hang around with that sneak-attacking, no-good shiftless bum, Eric Embry. And what's he a 'doctor' of, anyway? Tomfoolery? In my managing days, Prichard's the kind of guy I would've had in my stable—that tells you how cowardly and devious he is. Put his brain in a parakeet, it'd fly backward."

Capt. Lou Albano, long known as "The Guiding Light," has guided 13 tag teams to an unmatched 16 WWF World tag team titles.



KILLER KOWALSKI

"You have to admire a wrestler who's pretty small, but nonetheless works his way into status as one of the most feared guys around. Hell, everybody's bigger than Prichard—he's about 5'10", 230 pounds—but I've seen his take out guys 300 pounds and heavier. How does he do it? He's got something called 'fighting heart,' which most of the musclebound pretty boys that populate the sport today will never have. No wonder Embry and Prichard dominate the USWA."

Killer Kowalski, one of the most sadistic rulebreakers in the sport's history, runs a wrestling school in Reading, Massachusetts.



DORY FUNK JR.

"I've seen Prichard stick a piece of metal on his boot and kick Jeff Jarrett in the face. I've seen him grab a piece of barbed wire and rake it right across Eddie Gilbert's nose. I've seen him blast Jerry Lawler with brass knucks, hurl him from the ring, and choke him with a wooden chair. Would I use such tactics? Never! But Prichard does something really important: He always stands up tall and proud for the great state of Texas. How can I complain about that?"

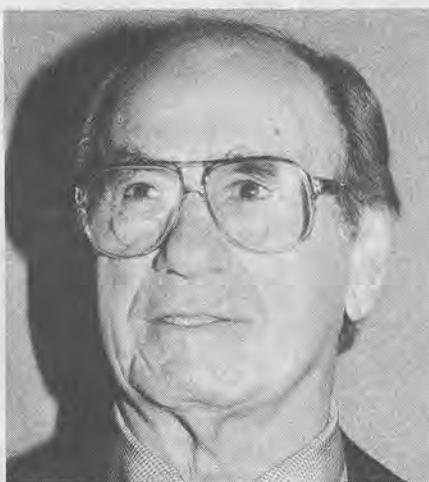
Dory Funk Jr. held the NWA World championship from 1969 to 1973. He still wrestles from time to time.



LARRY HENNIG

"I'm really impressed with the way Prichard just walked into the USWA and took over the federation right from the get-go—and was smart enough to know he couldn't do it alone. When I was in my early years, Harley Race was my tag partner. Wherever he went, I was right there. Sure enough, we dominated the AWA, and won the tag title three times. Prichard chose Eric Embry as his partner, and he couldn't have made a better choice. What a great pair!"

Larry "The Ax" Hennig is a four-time former AWA World tag team champion; he held three of those titles with Harley Race.



LOU THESZ

"Prichard thinks that by sneak-attacking and breaking every rule imaginable he's getting away with something, but he's only robbing himself. Tom looks really young, but he's a 13-year veteran of the mat. During his early years, he did himself proud. He took on both young and old in the Southwest, and he had a lot of success. But a couple years ago in the CWF, he went sour, and for the life of me I don't understand why. The man really confuses me."

Lou Thesz held the NWA World title six times during his fabulous 50-year career. Many consider him the greatest all-round wrestler in history.



JIM ROSS

"Prichard obviously prefers being a big fish in a small pond. Sure, his name is on everybody's lips in Tennessee and Texas, but he's becoming famous for all the wrong reasons. When's the last time Prichard scored a clean pin without the help of Embry or his manager, Tojo Yamamoto? Prichard knows as much technical wrestling as anyone, but if he was smart he'd take advantage of that instead of settling for all the disputed decisions he gets."

Jim Ross ranks among the sport's most respected television commentators. He is the host of *World Championship Wrestling* on SuperStation TBS.

IT WAS A busy Saturday night at the front desk of Philadelphia's University of Pennsylvania Hospital. After dealing with several emergency calls, the harried receptionist quickly grabbed the receiver when the switchboard rang again, but there was no voice on the other end—just desperate, heavy panting.

"Hello, is anyone there?" asked the bewildered receptionist. "Are you too ill to speak, sir?" There was still no answer on the other end.

"Sir, do you have an emergency?" asked the worried receptionist. "Should I send an ambulance out to your location?"

"Naw, not just yet," laughed the deep voice. "I'm Cactus Jack, the wrestler. You ever heard o' me?"

"No, I haven't, sir," said the receptionist, who was considering transferring the call to the psychiatric wing. "Just what is it that you want?"

"I want to reserve a bed for a guy named Eddie Gilbert," said the wrestler, breathing even heavier now. "I have a barbed-wire match against him in about an hour, and I'm going to send him out of the Philly Civic Center in an ambulance. Yeah, babe, there's gonna be blood tonight—*lots* of it! Ha!"

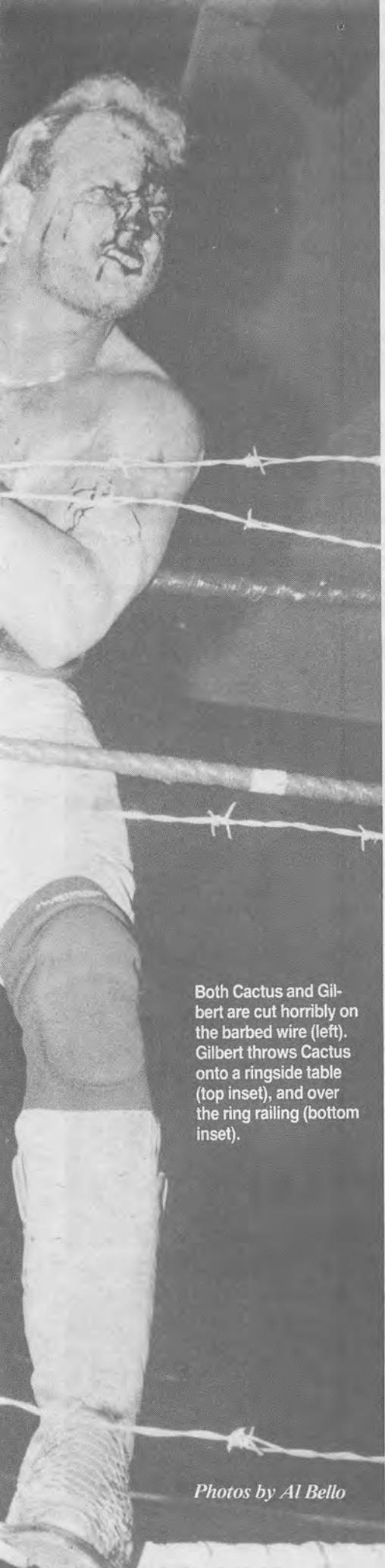
"We don't make reservations for anybody," said the receptionist. "Please don't call here again." With that, the receptionist cut the caller off and switched to another line.

Is it any wonder why Eddie Gilbert despises Cactus Jack with such passion? The wanton depravity "Hot Stuff" displays against Cactus harkens back to the craven Gilbert that fans knew only seven months ago. At that point, top on Gilbert's résumé of cruelty was an attempt to run Jerry Lawler down with his automobile!

Gilbert has come to terms with his status in the sport since then, and the young veteran has shocked his peers by becoming a fan favorite in the USWA. However, take him out of his element—and put him in the

Eddie Gilbert's Sadistic Vow:





"IF I CAN'T BEAT CACTUS JACK, I'LL BLEED HIM DRY!"

Both Cactus and Gilbert are cut horribly on the barbed wire (left). Gilbert throws Cactus onto a ringside table (top inset), and over the ring railing (bottom inset).

Photos by Al Bello

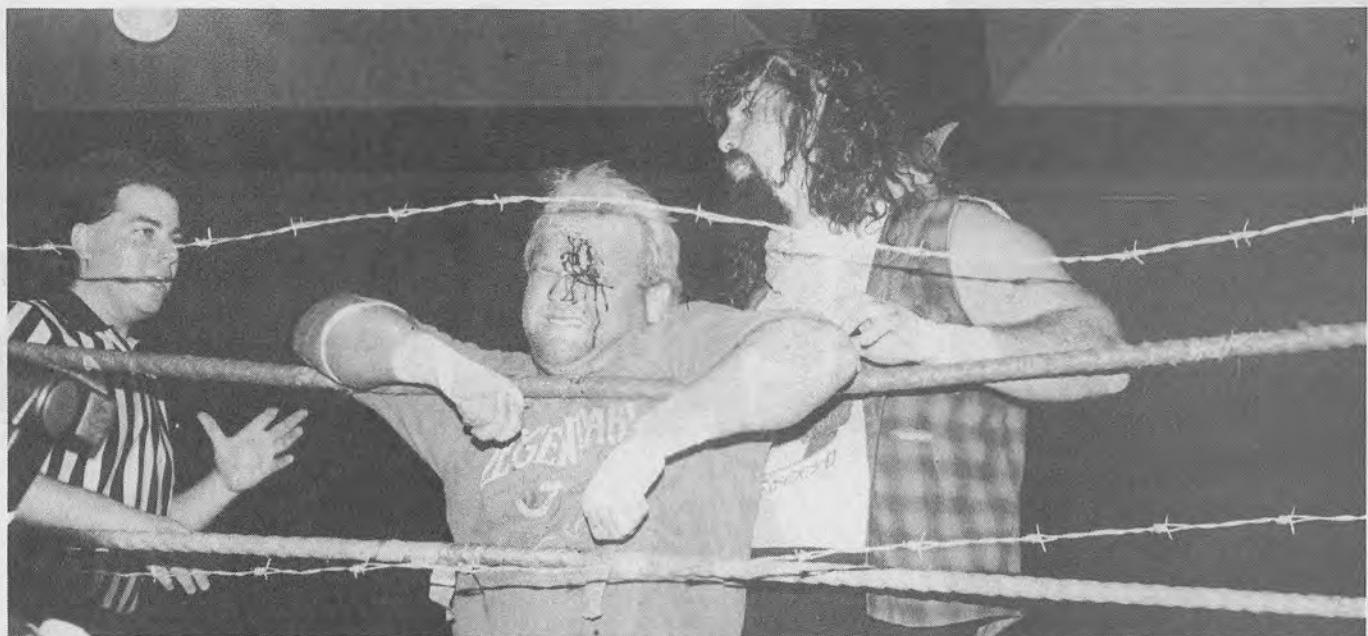
Eddie Gilbert has earned his status as one of the sport's most popular stars. But put him in a ring with wildman Cactus Jack, and "Hot Stuff" becomes as evil as ever. Indeed, his actions against the maniacal New Mexican are downright horrifying!

ring with Cactus—and you'd never know he had undergone a change of attitude.

"I guess I've changed, and I'm better off for it," said Gilbert. "Whenever I see that idiot Jack, though, something inside me just snaps. He's not a wrestler, he's a

maniac and a masochist. He'd do anything to hurt his opponents. And after what that dirtbag did to me the last time we met, I asked for a special match so I could do away with that slimeball."

The match Gilbert is referring to took place on March 2 in Philadel-



phia for the Tri-State Wrestling Alliance. That was when Gilbert and Cactus engaged in an incredible "falls count anywhere in the building" match. The no-disqualification contest was a shocking display of raw, unbridled violence.

Jack smashed Gilbert with a flying elbowdrop that landed nearly 20 feet away from the ring. Gilbert backflipped Cactus on a ringside table. Jack rocked Gilbert with a dangerous sunset flip from the ring apron to the floor. Gilbert nearly snapped Jack's neck with a "hot-shot" suplex on the steel ring railing. When Jack scored an illegal pin after bashing Gilbert in the head with a shoe, Gilbert had a stern demand for Tri-State President Joel Goodhart:

"I want a barbed-wire match against this idiot! I want Cactus where he can't run away from me. He beat me tonight, but you call *that* a victory? Well, next time, if I can't beat this lunatic, at least I can bleed him dry!"

That's exactly what Gilbert tried to do during the rematch. Cactus made his way to ringside first, but was attacked by a shovel-wielding Gilbert. Instantly, a brawl throughout the stands began, which delayed the start of the actual bout for several minutes. After the weary combatants made their way to the ring, the sadism began in earnest.

Gilbert was the first to bleed (above), but it didn't take long for Cactus' face to become a sticky red mask (below). Despite the potential for violence, Gilbert wanted this match badly.





Even when Jack caught his face and neck in the wire, Gilbert would not let up on him (above). Cactus' fiancee assesses the damage wreaked in this bloodfest (below).



Within minutes, both men were horribly bloody after raking each other's faces on the sharp barbs. After Cactus opened several more cuts on Gilbert's face and arms, Gilbert knew he needed to take desperate measures. As Jack pounded Eddie in the corner, he pushed referee Joe Zanolle out of the way. When the arbiter hit the mat, Gilbert unleashed a huge fireball into Jack's face.

Lusting to do away with his foe, Gilbert picked the screaming Cactus off the mat and tried to hurl him over the top rope. As Jack soared through the air, he grabbed the top rope to try to prevent his fall. An instant later, his head and neck were caught between the top and second ropes, both of which were wrapped in the sharp wire!

With every movement, Jack was imperiled even more. If he tried to pull himself out, the barbs cut into his hands. If he moved his head, the wire sliced open his face and neck.

"Stop it!" screamed a frantic Goodhart at ringside. "Stop this match! Call it a no-contest. This guy's *life* is in danger!"

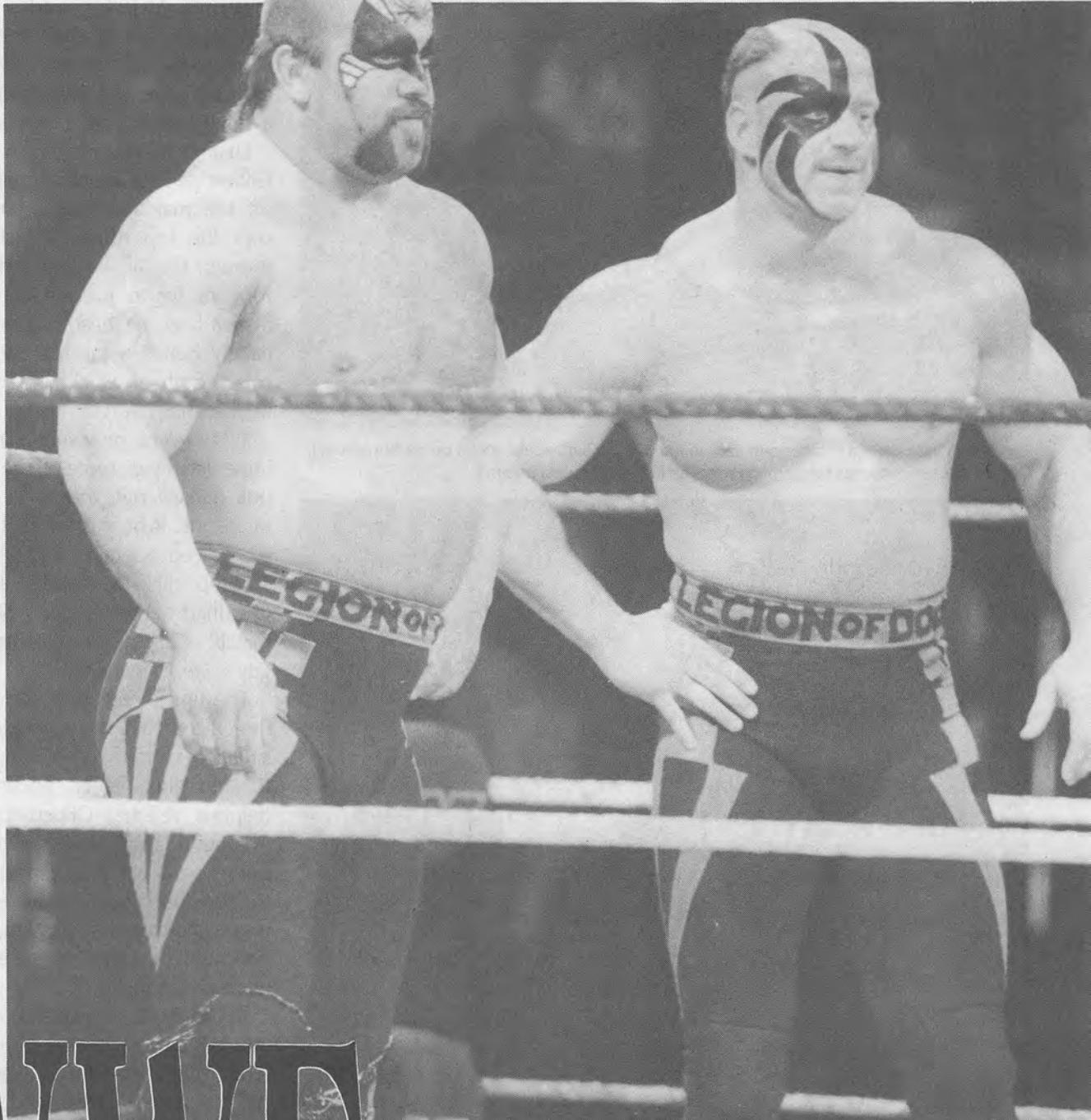
The timekeeper rang the bell, but the crazed Gilbert was making a bad situation worse. When Zanolle tried to stop him, Gilbert piledriven the helpless referee. Gilbert continued to pound away at the wailing Jack until several wrestlers ran to the ring to stop the carnage. Even as Cactus was being carted away from the ring, he could be heard to state that he wanted a rematch.

Ironically, it was Cactus that ended up in a hospital that evening, suffering from more than 30 lacerations on his upper body. In the locker room, reporters asked a bandaged but joyous Gilbert what kind of stipulations he wanted for his next match with Cactus.

"How about 20 paces at dawn?" asked Gilbert with a sly smile.

From the look on his face—and his actions in the "match" just completed—they could tell that he meant every hate-filled word. □

THE LEGION OF DOOM:



WWF DISAPPOINT

By Craig Peters

ALOT CAN happen in five years. Wars come and go. Walls come tumbling down. Nations are reborn.

And a four-time *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Tag Team of the Year

slips into obscurity.

Okay, not exactly obscurity. After all, the WWF is the most visible federation in the world, and The Legion of Doom is one of the WWF's most potent tag team forces.



The Legion of Doom was expected to do more against The Nasty Boys than beat them by countout; many expected them to quickly win the Nastys' WWF World tag team title.

Still, as one watches Hawk and Animal feud with The Nasty Boys, there seems to be something missing.

As The Road Warriors, Hawk and Animal captured Tag Team of the Year honors in 1983, 1984, 1985, and 1988. In 1989 and 1990, critics lined up to proclaim that the face-painted powerhouses has lost their killer instinct.

In 1991, The Legion of Doom appears to be a hair's breadth away from the WWF World tag team title—and a world away from the acclaim that rained down upon them just a few years ago.

"Yeah, I've been following Hawk and Animal since they broke in back in 1983," said Steve Fuller, who watched the Legion beat the Nastys by countout in Pittsburgh recently. "I have to tell you, I was excited as hell when they came to the WWF. I mean, it seemed like the big step to take, you know? But I look at them today, and they're just not as fearsome, you know what I'm talking about? I mean, come on! Orange pads and spikes? They look like they just came from a Halloween party, not the gutters of Chicago!"

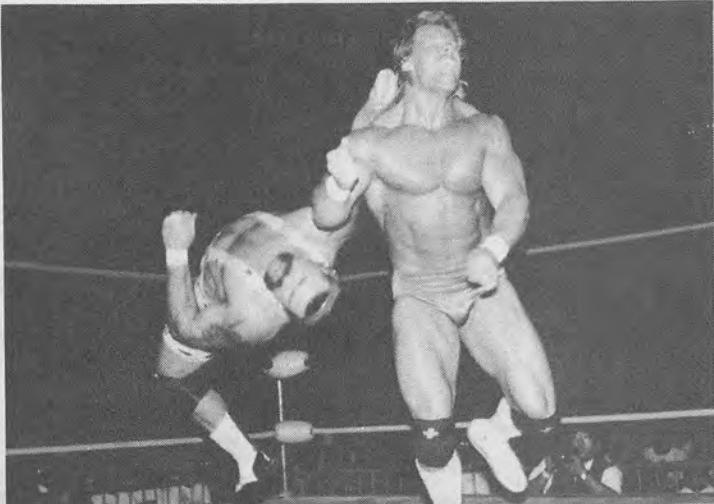
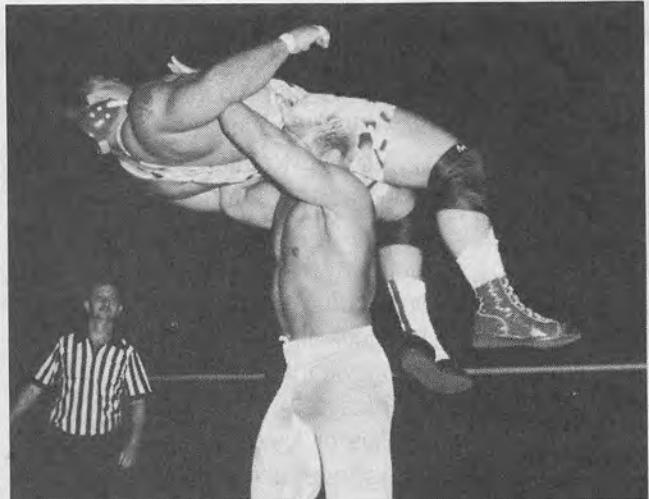
"Five or six years ago, there was a mystique about Hawk and Animal," said Glen Hargrove, who attended a recent WWF television taping in Rockford, Illinois. "They were unquestionably awesome. There wasn't another team in the sport like them. They'd go to a WCW TV taping in Atlanta like the WWF had here tonight and blow away the competition in a matter of

(Continued on page 62)

MEN

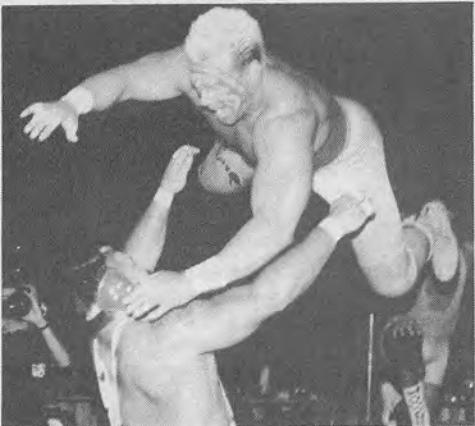
Hawk and Animal are feuding with The Nasty Boys, but the matches have not lived up to the expectations of The Legion of Doom's longtime fans. What went wrong with wrestling's most brutal team?

Sting & Luger v. HOW THEIR SURVIVED THE



At Super Brawl '91, Rick and Scott Steiner went at it hard and rough against Sting and Lex Luger. For a time, it seemed their solid relationships were on shaky ground. Then Nikita Koloff got into the act and, with one vicious swing, saved a four-way friendship

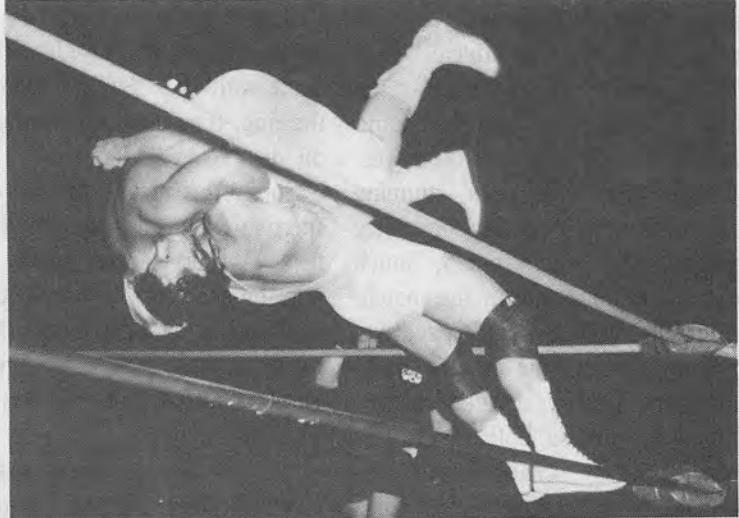
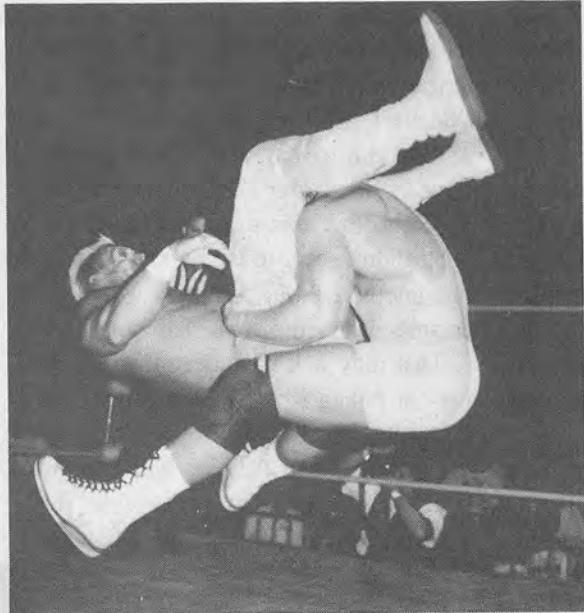
Sting and Lex Luger had their moments of domination over the WCW World tag team champions, as Sting gets Rick Steiner in a backbreaker (top left), Luger blasts Rick with a clothesline (above), and Sting leaps at Rick over the top rope (right).



Photos by Bill Apter

— MATCH OF

s. The Steiners: FRIENDSHIPS MOST BRUTAL



Scott Steiner drops the "Stinger" on his back (left) and suplexes him off the second turnbuckle (above). These men went at it like bitter enemies.

By Kostya Kennedy

THE BATTLE WAS so fierce and so intense, it didn't seem *any* relationship could bridge the gap between the two fighting sides. Four men—four friends—were involved in a grueling tag team match that appeared destined to ruin four friendships simultaneously.

When Rick and Scott Steiner shook hands with Sting and Lex Luger prior to their tag team bout at Super Brawl '91, fans might have worried that the respect and good feelings between the teams would dampen the intensity of the match. No way.

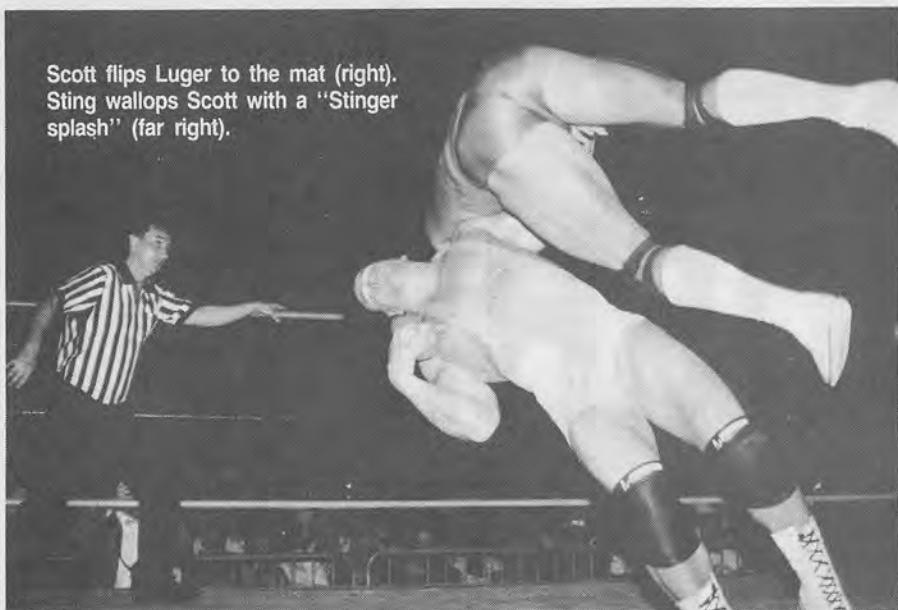
From the opening bell, these teams went at it with a vengeance. Four of the

most talented wrestlers in the world were displaying the best they had to give, and no one was holding back.

"Wow, that was some match," said Dustin Rhodes, who pinned Terrence Taylor earlier on the card. "I felt like a little kid when I was watching it. I wasn't really rooting for either team, I just wanted to see some great wres-

THE YEAR

Scott flips Luger to the mat (right).
Sting wallops Scott with a "Stinger
splash" (far right).



ting, and I sure wasn't disappointed. The fan in me totally came out; that match reminded me of why I love wrestling in the first place."

Indeed, most of these athletes' finer points were on display. Each team flaunted its scientific knowhow and stunned onlookers with power moves. Clotheslines from the ropes, stunning suplex variations, lightning-fast leg sweeps—all that, and much, much more. At one point late in the match, Sting actually reversed Scott's piledriver attempt to deliver one of his own! Things were getting decidedly rough, and the heat was on both teams.

Then, suddenly, chaos broke out. Sting was overpowering Scott when Rick ran entered the ring to stop a pin

count. As referee Randy Anderson directed Rick out of the ring, Luger charged in, knocking Anderson and Rick off the apron. As Lex and Rick began fighting at ringside, Sting tamed Scott with the "Stinger splash" inside the ring, then clamped on the "Scorpion deathlock."

Surely this meant the end of the respective friendships among these wrestlers. A man can take only so much punishment from a friend before the relationship cracks from the strain. Fights among buddies or brothers are hardly unusual, but this was no fight. This was a war.

"I was always impressed at how some wrestlers are able to go at it so hard and still maintain a friendship



when the match is over," said Bobby Reynolds, a Super Brawl ringsider. "I remember when Ultimate Warrior pinned Hulk Hogan. That was such a ferocious match, but when it was over Hogan was right there holding up Warrior's arm in triumph.

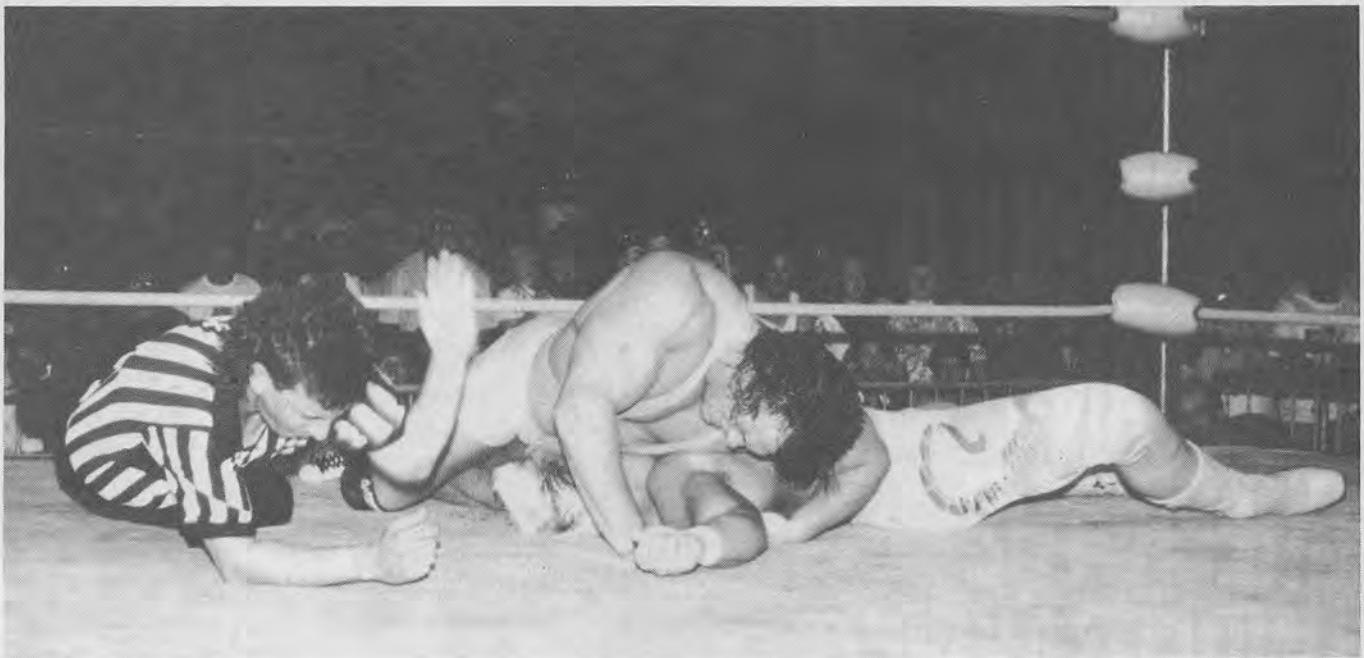
"But this was an even fiercer match. I mean, Rick and Luger were wailing on each other non-stop, and Sting and Scott didn't seem to care about hurting one another. I was sure they would be enemies when the final bell rang!"

That may well have been the case, if not for Nikita Koloff. That's right, the dastardly, devilish Koloff, known for creating rifts and tensions wherever he goes, was personally responsible for saving a four-way fan favorite



The referee ducks for cover as Luger and Rick battle on the arena floor (above). Nikita Koloff interferes, hitting Sting in the face with his chain (right).





friendship!

Luger had returned to the apron when Koloff raced out of the locker room bearing a chain. He headed toward Luger, but an alert Sting pushed his teammate out of the way, thereby absorbing the full impact of Koloff's chain with his own face. Bloodied, Sting fell to the mat. Scott was woozy, but he managed to crawl on top of Sting for the pin.

Yet when it was over, the Steiners hardly rejoiced in victory. The main concern was for Sting and the painful, underhanded blow he had been dealt.

"We're not about to give back the victory or anything," Scott said, "but I do feel bad that it had to happen the way it did. I'm just glad Sting wasn't seriously hurt. He's a great wrestler and a great man. Koloff's actions were totally unfair and totally uncalled for."

"It's hard enough to go up against a team like the Steiners without having Koloff get in the way," said Sting, who brawled with Koloff in the Bayfront Center's outer corridor after match. "I like to think we would have won if it wasn't for Koloff. The Steiners sure know what they're doing, though. I felt like we were taking on an army in there."

But suppose Koloff *hadn't* stepped in. Suppose Sting and Scott had continued to beat each other to a pulp. Suppose Lex and Rick had rekindled

Scott covers Sting for the pin (above), ending this incredible encounter. In the locker room, Luger assesses the damage done to his friend (below).



their skirmish outside the ropes. Would these teams still speak so well of one another? Or would their relationships have been shattered by the force of so many blows?

"It was getting ugly in there, there's no doubt about it," Luger said. "I don't know how far things would have gone, but we were all pretty into it. I don't know. If it had gone any fur-

ther, maybe our friendships *would* have suffered."

Instead, these four continue to form a nucleus of goodwill at the forefront of the WCW tag team title picture. And the incredible thing is that the man responsible for keeping those friendships intact is Nikita Koloff.

This bad guy did good, even though he didn't mean it. □

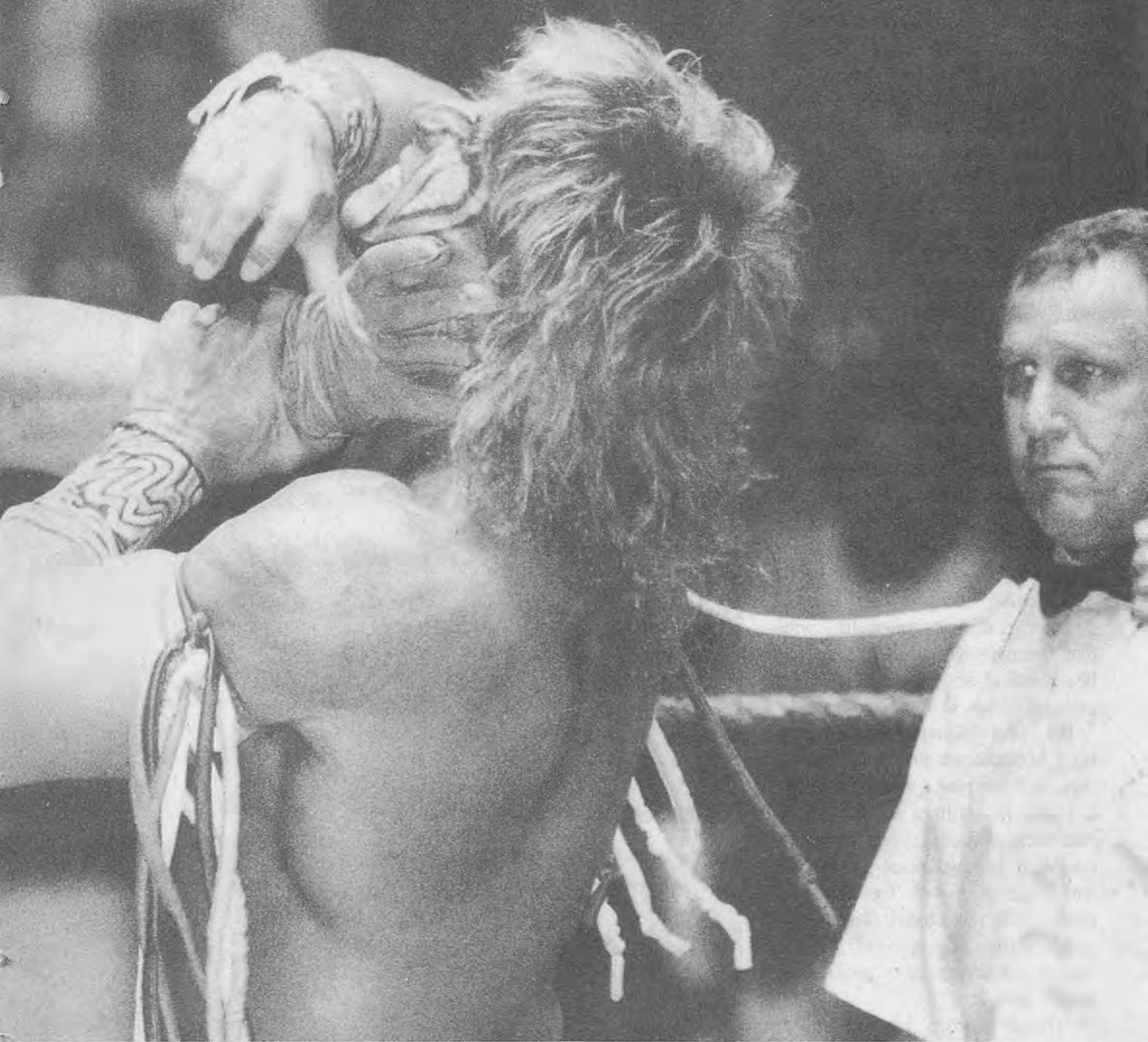
COLD HEART,
WARM RECEPTION:
**WHY WOULD
THE FANS
CHEER THE
UNDERTAKER?**

By Dave Rosenbaum



Inexplicably, WWF fans are rallying behind the bizarre and brutal Undertaker, lending their cheers to his ghoulish campaign of terror. But what exactly are they cheering—and why?

The Ultimate Warrior is one of the most popular athletes in the WWF, but when The Undertaker attacks him, a lot of fans cheer.



LIFE'S GREATEST MYSTERY is death. Volumes have been written about it. Religions are based upon it. Wise men have spoken about it and fools have feared it. And, yet, we still know nothing about it.

What does death feel like? What happens after death? What is nothingness? Does one maintain a semblance of consciousness after death? Is there

life after death? These questions have been asked for millions of years, but they have never been answered.

People know they don't want it. Animals naturally fear it. Some people worship it. That, perhaps, is death's scariest aspect of all.

Those who worship death are the most mysterious of all people. Why would they worship this concept of

nothingness, this unknown and unknowable thing of finality? Perhaps they have seen the other side and believe that they know what awaits us there. Perhaps they have the answers to all of our questions about death.

Maybe that's why suddenly, inexplicably, and so disturbingly, WWF fans have been cheering The Undertaker. Maybe they see in him the answers to

Some fans may be cheering Undertaker because of the manner in which he has handled the Warrior. If they hate him, they at least respect his ability.

all of our questions, the explanations and relief of all our darkest fears.

Or maybe the whole world has gone crazy.

There is no doubting the fact that The Undertaker has his fans. Despite his cruelty, despite that horrible incident in which he locked The Ultimate Warrior inside an airtight casket, The Undertaker is often cheered and the Warrior is often booed.

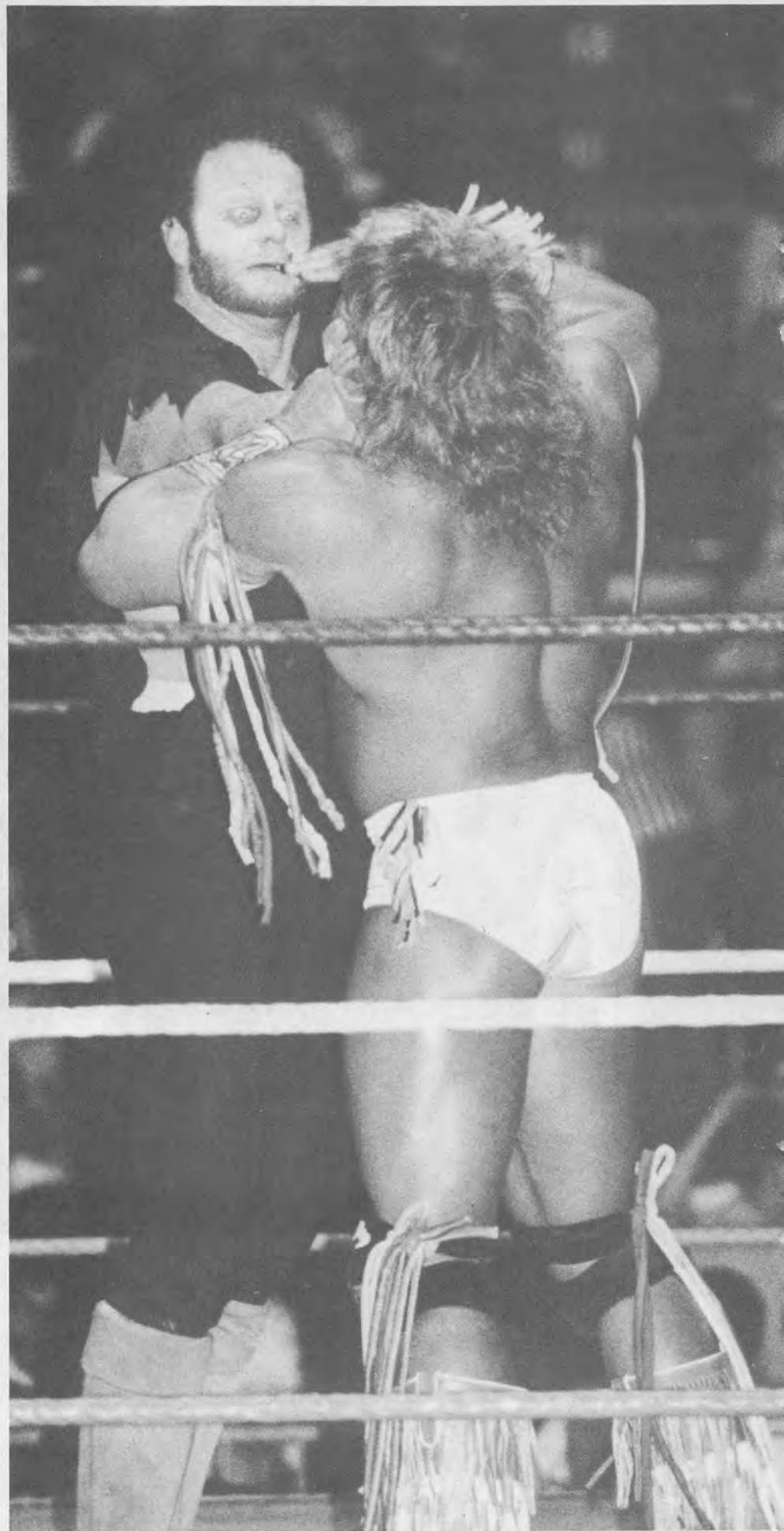
Enter Dr. Sidney M. Basil, wrestling psychologist. Maybe he has some answers to this mystery.

"There is a section of our culture, call it a subculture, if you will, that actually *worships* death," Dr. Basil said. "In fact, that subculture comprises a very small percentage of the population, perhaps 1/1000 of one percent, so that can't be the answer to our question. I would estimate that at the average WWF card, at least three-fifths of the crowd is cheering for The Undertaker, and that's when he's wrestling the massively popular Warrior. If he's wrestling anyone else, the level is probably closer to four-fifths."

But why? Several opinions have been advanced, ranging from The Undertaker's raw power to his air of mystery that has nothing to do with his embracing of death. People are simply fascinated by mysterious people: that dark-haired man with the dark sunglasses, that raven-haired woman who closely guards her personal life. Our natural curiosity causes us to find these people appealing.

"There's another side to The Undertaker, too," said WWF expert Thomas Pilliard. "Wrestling, of course, has its sporting side and its entertainment side. In no other sport do these sides mix as they do in wrestling. Wrestlers are permitted to express themselves like no other athletes. They can wear costumes into the ring and take on different personalities.

"The Undertaker has found an untapped sense of expression," Pilliard





continued. "He's doing something no other wrestler has done before. I think, at first, people were scared of him, but now they're fascinated by him. He's taken cruelty—both physical and psychological—to a new level. When he locked the Warrior in a casket, he touched upon people's feelings. He's made people think, and he's captured their imaginations."

There are those who feel that The Undertaker has even made some fans feel more comfortable about death. If The Undertaker has, indeed, seen the other side, or believes that he's been contacted by something from the other side, perhaps he does not fear the darkness of death. Maybe there is nothing to fear.

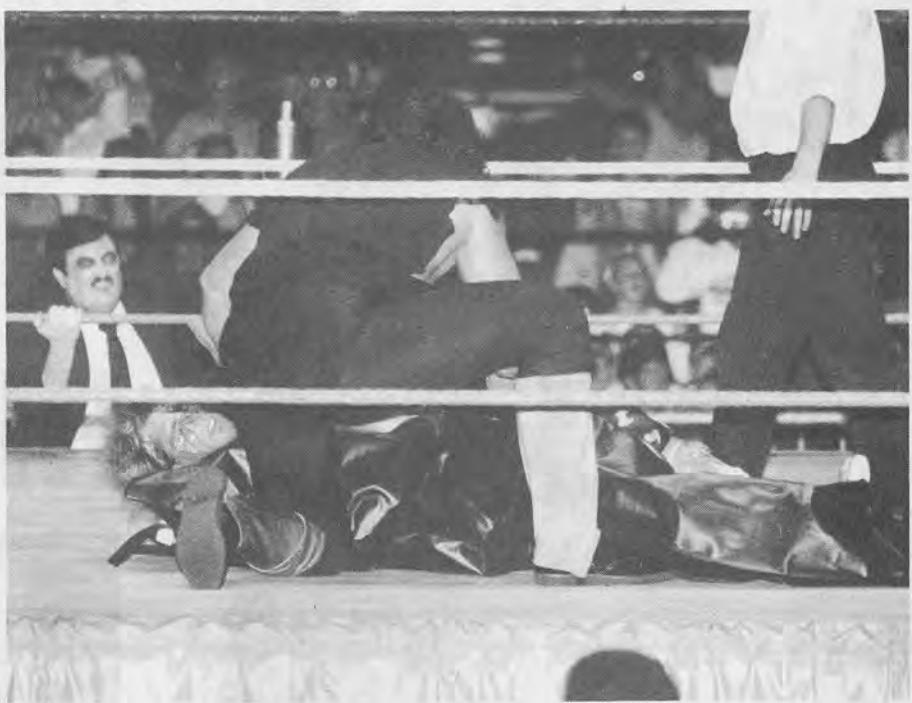
"That is also a possibility," Dr. Basil said. "That is where the concept of heaven comes into play. People want to know that death is not bad, that it is not the end, that there is something good on the other side to—well, to look forward to. In a very strange roundabout way, The Undertaker might reassure people."

Or, perhaps most simply of all, The Undertaker is being cheered because he is a massive, powerful, awe-inspiring wrestling juggernaut. Fans may not like seeing their favorites steamrolled by a more powerful foe, but they can't help

Warrior looks for inspiration before attempting to put his enemy in a body bag.



Undertaker's appeal could be partially based on people's fascination with death.



As Paul Bearer watches gleefully from ring-side, Undertaker places Warrior, who is nearly unconscious, in the body bag.

but respect—and cheer—that foe's abilities.

Still, this is not a valid reason to cheer such a man. He is the embodiment of evil. He breaks the rules. He acts upon opponents' fears, not their skills as a wrestler. Paul Bearer, his manager, is also an evil man. The WWF was wrong to give them a forum

on its TV broadcasts.

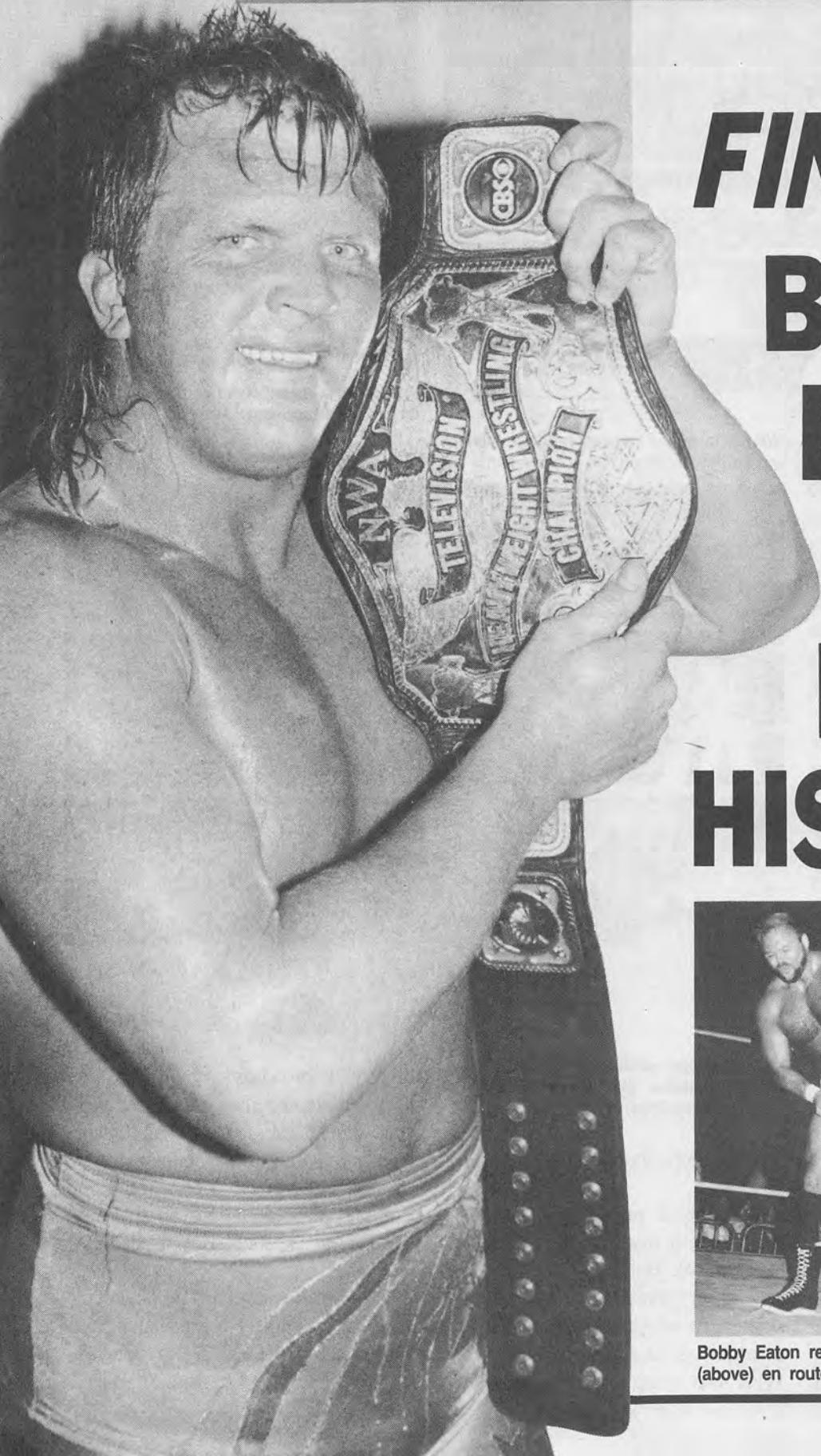
Instead of cheering The Undertaker, fans should call for his banishment. There is room for entertainment in wrestling, but there is no room for exposing and capitalizing on the dark side of men's souls that Undertaker lays bare.

But the cheering for The Undertaker goes on. There are explanations for it, but none of them are acceptable.

The cheering must stop. □

The Pride Of A Champion:

**FINALLY—
BOBBY
EATON
MAKES
IT ON
HIS OWN!**



Bobby Eaton resists Arn Anderson's attempted leglock (above) en route to the WCW TV title (left).

ENDS ARE OFTEN beginnings. The earth revolves in a circle around the sun and rotates itself on an axis. People's lives do not go in straight lines; as Harry Chapin sang, "All my life's a circle . . ."

The end of The Midnight Express was the beginning of a new life for Bobby Eaton. There's no way he could have realized that at the time. But when Jim Cornette broke up Eaton and Stan Lane following a dispute with WCW officials, Eaton started a new phase of his career.

It was the first day of the rest of his life.

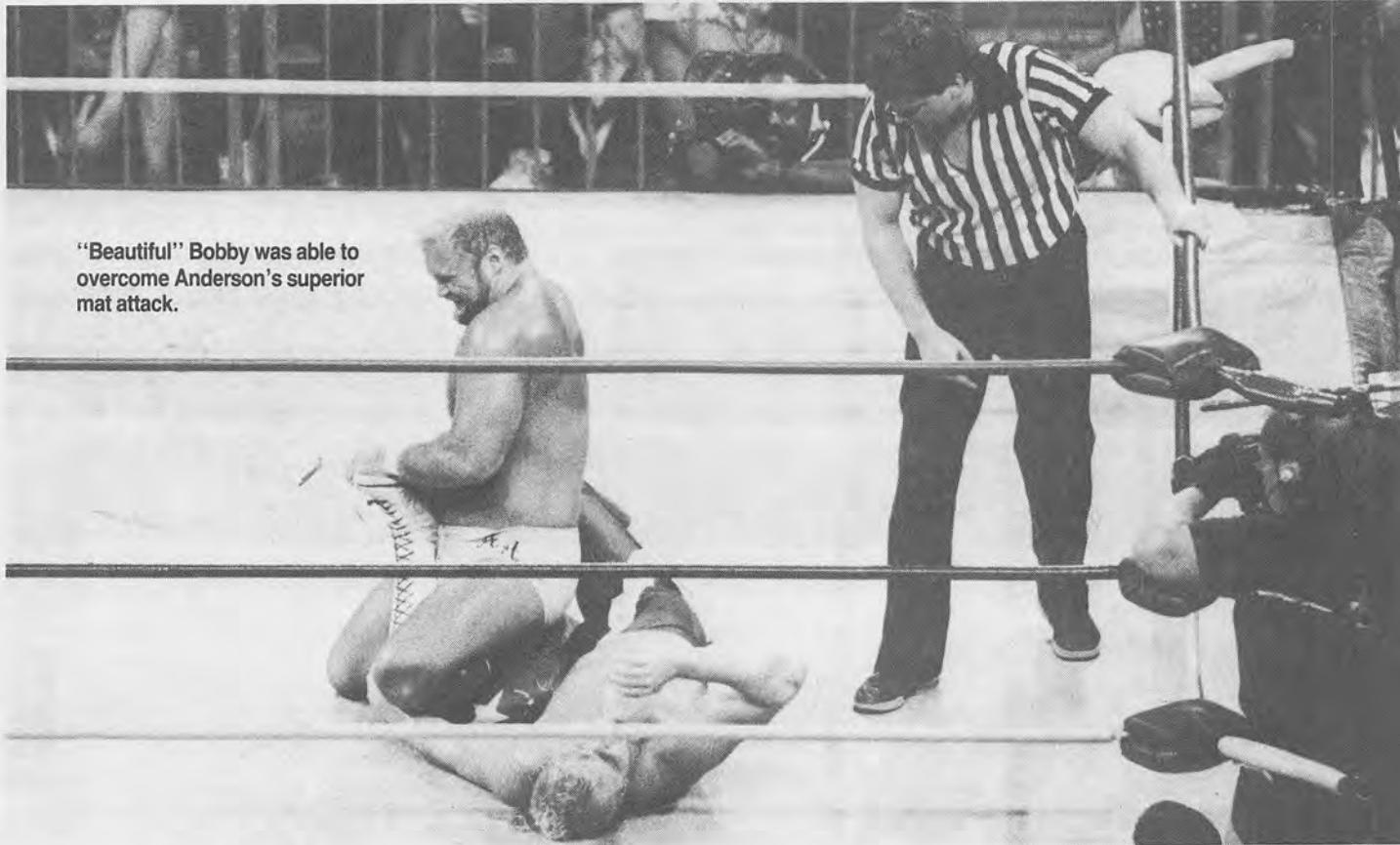
"Things have worked out far beyond my wildest dreams," Eaton said. "I was really down when the Midnights broke up. Stan and I were a great team, and I enjoyed working with Cornette, but I guess there's a reason for everything. I think that with what I've done, there's a lesson for us all: Just when things look darkest, light is just around the corner."

Perhaps that's not true of every wrestler. After all, not every wrestler has Eaton's vast talents and determination. With The Midnight Express, it was suspected that Eaton could be a talented singles wrestler. Now that he's WCW TV

champion, there is no doubt.

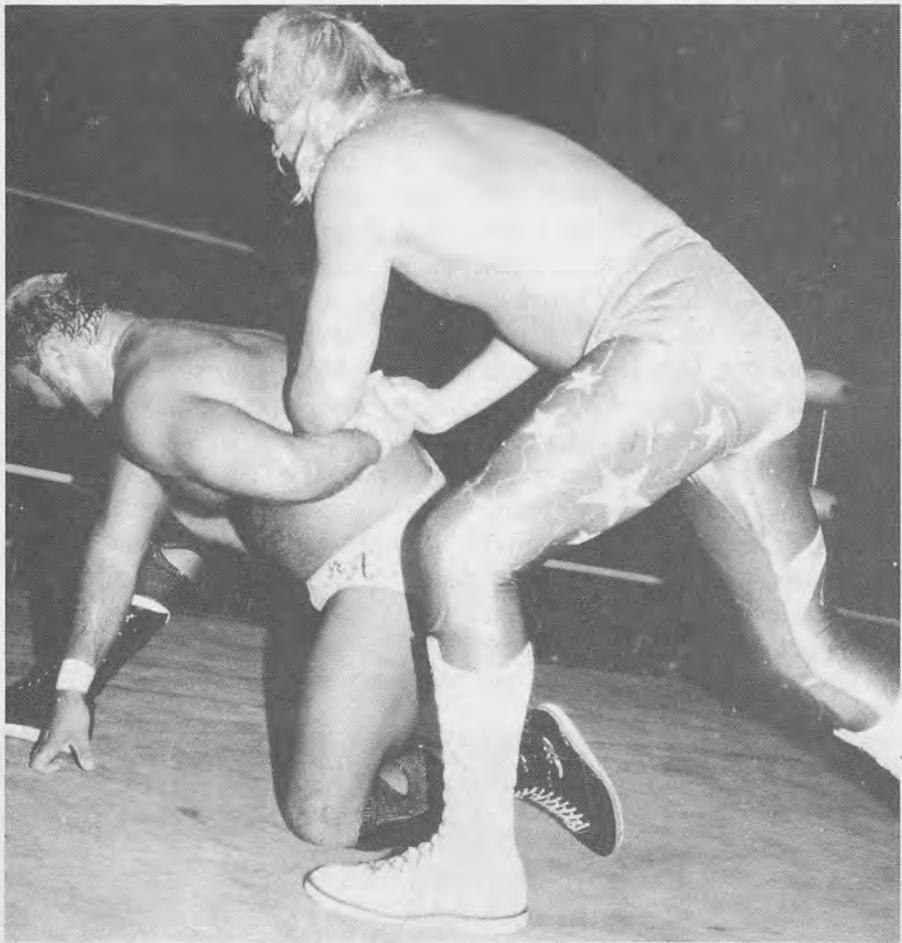
Eaton's victory over Arn Anderson—a true benchmark in his career—came during WCW's May 19 Super Brawl pay-per-view card at the Bayfront Center in St. Petersburg, Florida. It was a clean victory, unlike many of his wins with the Midnights, and may have been a springboard to future greater victories.

"I have no doubt that this is only the beginning," Eaton said. "I fought hard to get to this point, and I'm going to fight even harder to get to the next level, be it the U.S. title or the World title. Wouldn't that be something? For-

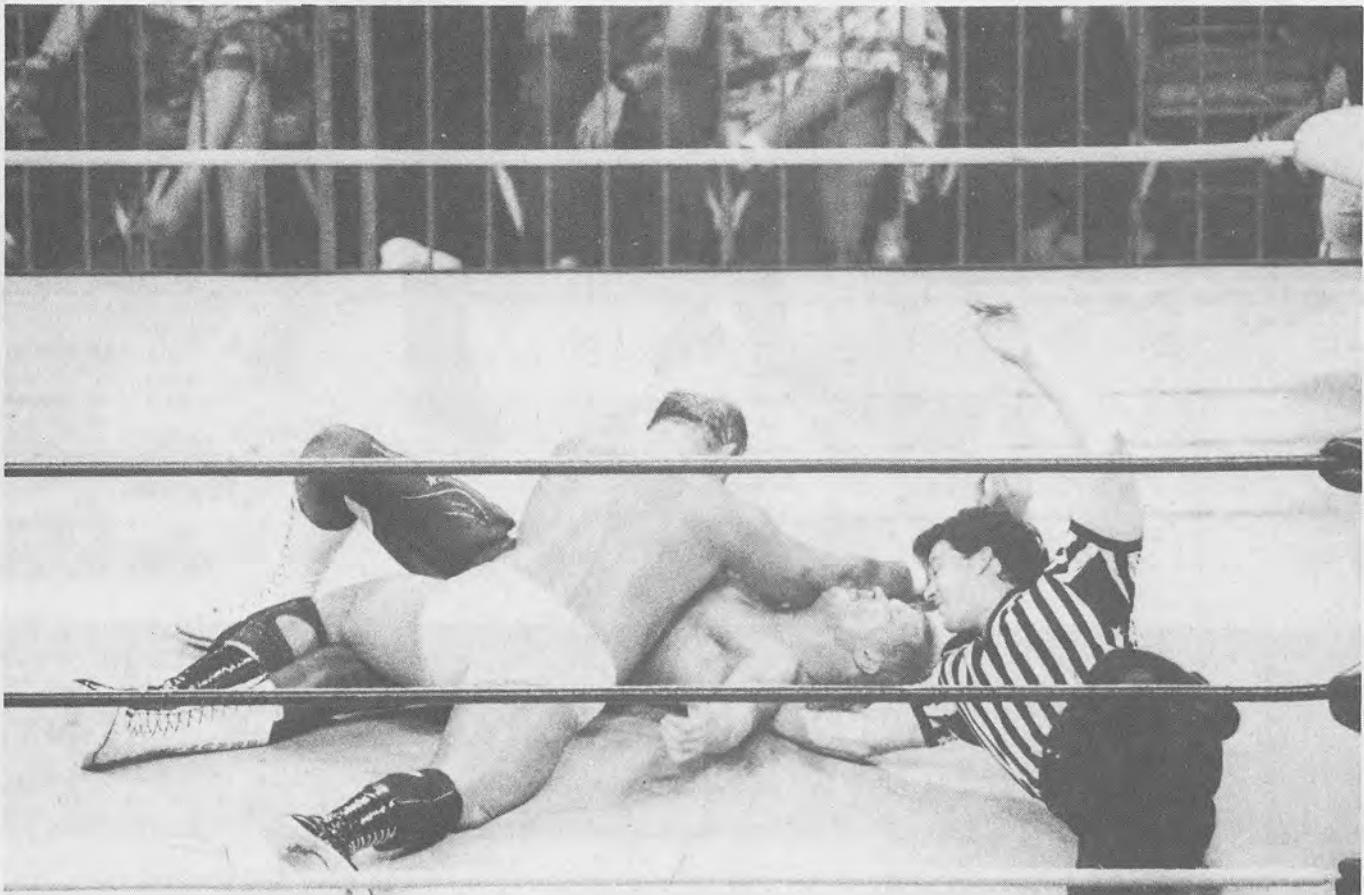


"Beautiful" Bobby was able to overcome Anderson's superior mat attack.

The breakup of The Midnight Express was the best thing that ever happened to Bobby Eaton. Now he's the WCW TV champion, and he has every right to be proud of his wonderful achievement!



The former member of The Midnight Express pursued Anderson relentlessly (above). Arn got a two-count on this pin attempt (below), the closest he would come to winning.



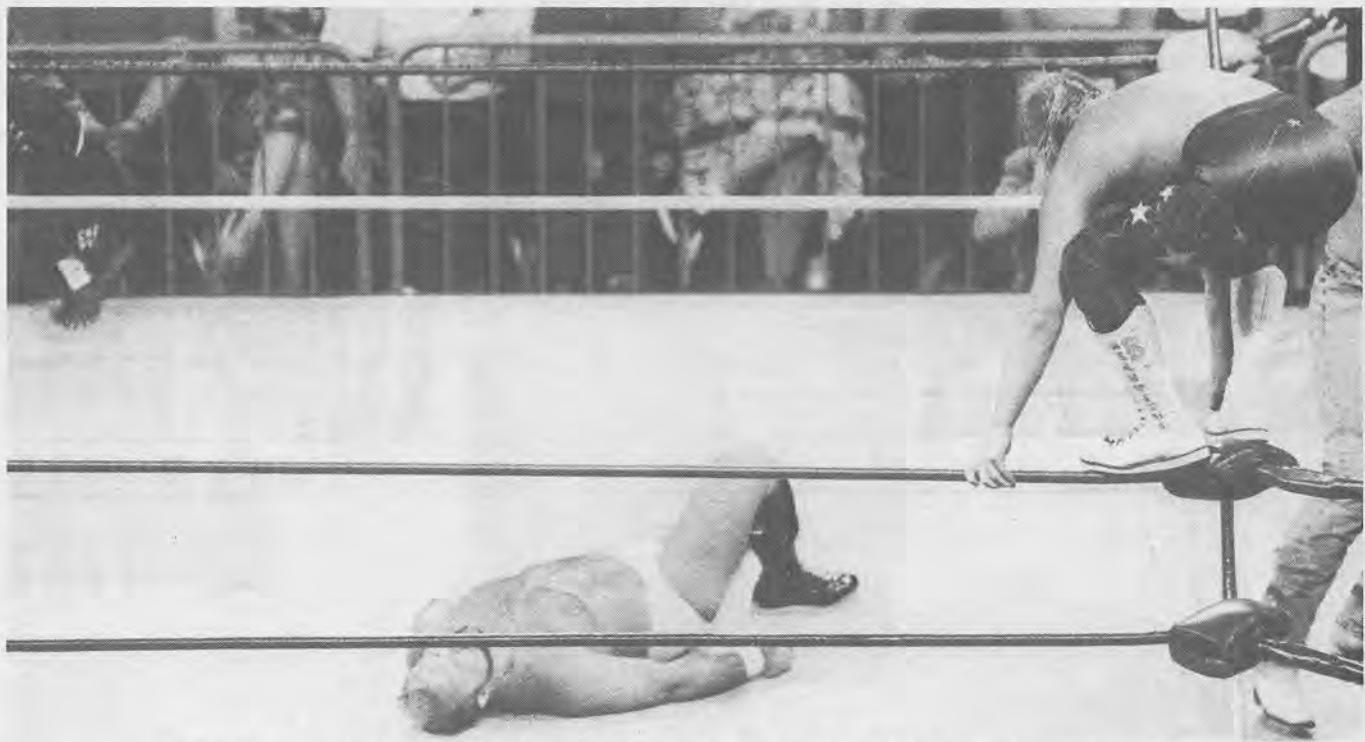
mer World tag team champion becomes World *singles* champion?"

It's been done before, by men such as Dusty Rhodes, Rick Steamboat, and Ric Flair. It would, indeed, be a remarkable achievement by Eaton, a man whose career has been filled with remarkable achievements.

Eaton and Lane were the first tag team to hold the WCW World and U.S. tag team titles simultaneously. Eaton also held the World tag team title with his former partner, Dennis Condrey. When Condrey left the Midnights and Lane came in, Eaton retained the continuity of the team. He made Lane feel like he was part of a proven formula, and he was.

But it all seemed to lead up to May 19 in St. Petersburg. When Anderson said, "Eaton's just a tag wrestler," Eaton vowed to prove him wrong.

"I knew he was wrong, but I think the fans, the experts, and certainly the other wrestlers had some doubts," Eaton said. "This



Eaton mounts the top turnbuckle to execute the legdrop that will earn him the pin and the championship. No longer will Eaton be known solely as a tag team wrestler.

was more than a matter of winning a title. It was a matter of pride. This was probably the most important match of my career, because I knew there might not be another chance."

Eaton made the most of his opportunity. Eaton limped noticeably throughout the match after Anderson spent the early portions working on his left leg. Anderson then caught Eaton in a spinebuster slam and covered him for a two-count.

"Even then, I never thought I was in trouble," Eaton said. "When you're so intent on winning, losing can never cross your mind."

The match turned when Anderson attempted a flying axhandle from the second rope. Eaton caught Anderson with a hard right to the stomach, then delivered a neckbreaker and a bodyslam. Next, Eaton went in for the kill with a stunning legdrop from the top rope.

"That had to be a part of my victory," Eaton said. "You dance with the one who brought you, and that legdrop's been with me

throughout my career. It's never failed me, and it didn't then."

Actually, Eaton nearly didn't have a chance to deliver the legdrop. Barry Windham, Anderson's partner, came to ringside when it appeared Anderson was in trouble. But Brian Pillman caught up with Windham and neutralized Anderson's impending advantage.

"Bobby's worked so hard for this and Windham was getting ready to take it away in his usual fashion—by cheating," Pillman said. "Bobby wrestled a brave match and he deserved the chance to put Anderson away without Windham's interference."

He did. Eaton connected on the legdrop, covered Anderson for the pin, and got the three-count. It was a wonderful moment; another highlight for Eaton's bulging scrapbook.

"I'm proud of what I've done," Eaton said. "People told me that I'm strictly a tag team wrestler, and I proved otherwise. Beating Anderson, who's a great singles wrestler, was a tremendous achievement. I think this all goes

back to an attitude I've always had about wrestling: You work your hardest, you throw your best at them, and the best things usually happen."

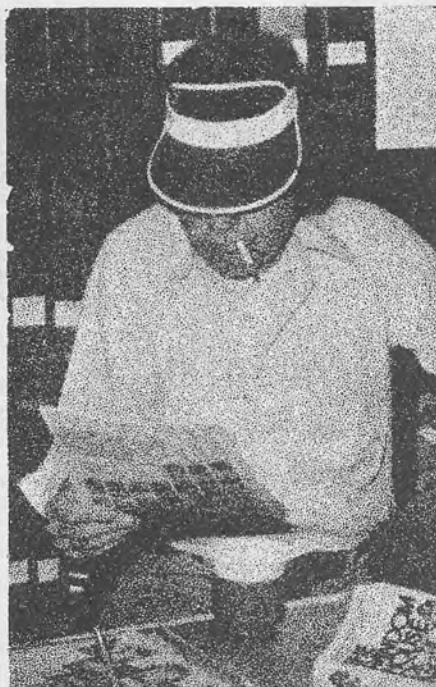
The best thing has now happened to the TV title, which has become the property of a man who is proud of the belt he wears. Anderson rarely defended the TV title. Eaton plans to defend it as often as possible.

"That's the whole idea of being champion," Eaton said. "You're not really champion if you never wrestle. Anderson clearly didn't do the right thing, but I'm going to bring honor to this belt . . . until, of course, it's time to wear a different one. That's only a matter of time, too."

Time has been good to Bobby Eaton. It healed the devastation of the breakup of the Midnights. It made him learn to be an outstanding singles wrestler. And now Eaton is having the time of his life. He showed he could be what he always knew he could be.

He is proud, and he has a right to be. □

MATT BROCK'S



LOOKING BACK

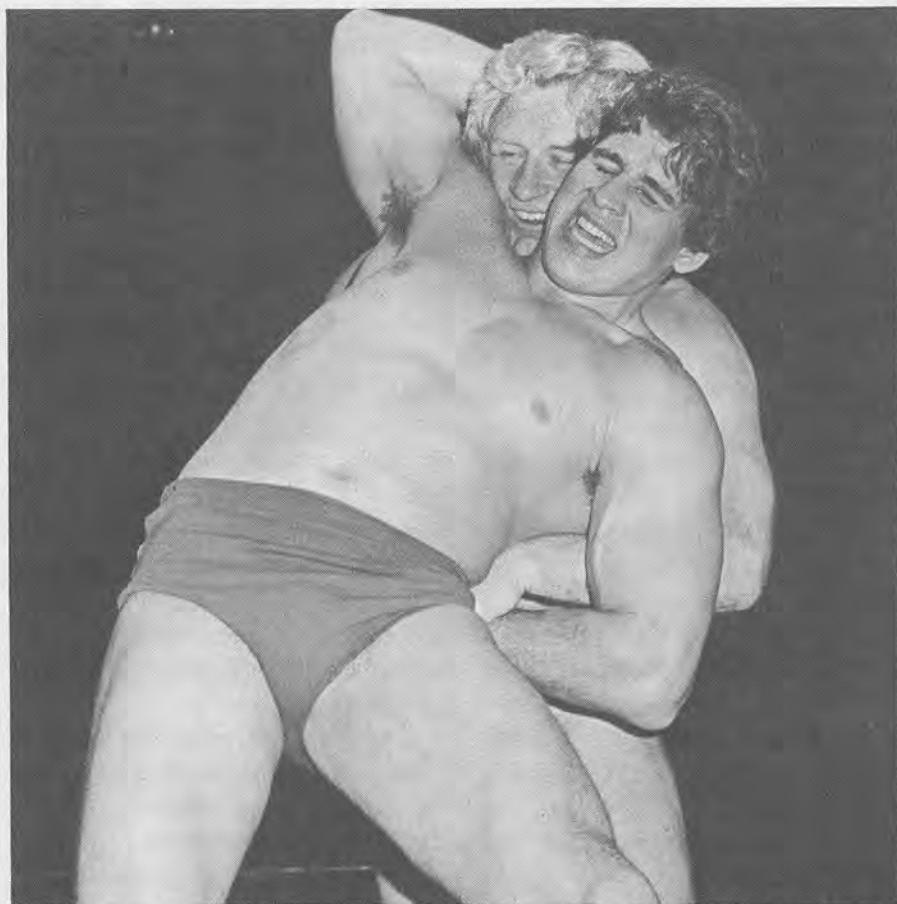
December 1981 NICK BOCKWINKEL vs. TITO SANTANA

YOU DON'T HEAR me giving many WWF wrestlers much lip service these days. That's mainly because I never know what to call these bozos anymore.

Jacques Rougeau? *Who?* These days, the Canadian star bills himself as The Mountie, and his ring attire makes him look like a reject from a casting call of a big-screen, live-action version of *Dudley Do-Right*.

Rick Steamboat? Well, *kind* of. The TV announcers still mention that he's Steamboat, but the ring announcer proclaims that he's The Dragon. The guy even breathes fire! Color commentator Bobby Heenan threw off a funnier line than I could come up with about this ridiculous situation a few weeks ago: After watching Steamboat breathe fire, he proclaimed that the former WCW champ "must've been a dinner guest at Mama Santana's house again."

Which brings me to one of the few WWF stars I've always admired, Tito Santana. He's watched most of his contemporaries fly back and forth



Tito Santana struggles to escape from Nick Bockwinkel's clutches. A fine competitor with a quiet demeanor, Santana has been remarkably successful in his 16-year career.



Santana uses his scientific knowledge to work over Bockwinkel's legs (above) and arms (right). Santana would go on to score a pinfall in this match, but Bockwinkel's AWA title was not on the line at the time.

from federation to federation, changing names and styles at the drop of a hat. But Santana has remained the same, steady competitor he's always been. He never had a mascot, a manager, or even a fancy ring jacket. He just jumps in the ring, politely waves to the fans, and *wins*.

He's also been one of the most successful WWF stars I can think of. In 1979, grizzled Polish strongman Ivan Putski teamed with Santana to win the WWF World tag team title. Five years later, Santana shocked the sport by beating the bigger, flashier, and louder Don Muraco for the Intercontinental belt. Tito got his leg snapped by Greg Valentine's figure-four when he lost the title, but Santana regained the belt in 1985 in one of the best steel cage matches I've ever seen.

Two years after *that*, Santana teamed with Rick Martel (a "Model" of cowardice these days) to win another set of WWF tag team belts. And in 1990, Santana made it to the final round against Curt Hennig in the tournament to determine a new I-C champ (the title was vacant because The Ultimate Warrior had won the World title).

Do you see the pattern here? Every so often, without fanfare, Santana emerges as a contender or a champion.



That's the sign of a great wrestler.

Even with all those triumphs, however, my favorite memory of Santana was when the young Mexican firebrand locked up with then-AWA champion Nick Bockwinkel in December 1981 in Houston. As usual, nobody gave Santana much chance of beating the wily veteran Bockwinkel, then enjoying his second (of four) AWA title reigns.

Since this bout was for the finals of the Houston Gold Cup tournament and not for the AWA championship, Bockwinkel's manager, Heenan, did not make the trip from his Minneapolis home. Santana was so brilliant, however, I doubt that even the "Weasel's" interference would've made much of a difference. Tito was more charged than I've ever seen him. So were the fans, and the mutual energy propelled Santana to greatness.

Every move Bockwinkel tried, Santana easily powered out of. When Bockwinkel altered his style and started using gutter tactics, Santana responded in kind. Bockwinkel was stunned. Nobody in the arena had ever seen the

legendary champion so confused. Minutes later, Santana pinned Nick, and Tito's older brother climbed in the ring to join in the victory celebration, holding the big Gold Cup aloft for all to see.

But like I said before, I don't offer much tribute to WWF wrestlers these days. Right when I thought Santana was the last of a dying breed—a wrestler who never sold out—I find out that even Tito isn't above making an image switch in order to make a bigger name for himself.

Soon, they won't be calling Tito Tito anymore. He'll be known as The Matador, replete with flowing cape and matador's fedora. It wouldn't at all surprise me to see him bring a bull to ringside.

There have been so many name and image changes lately that I'm finding myself getting dizzy. I guess I'll take a swig of Johnnie Walker to calm myself down. After all these years, one of the few comforts I have is knowing that ol' Johnnie would never change his handle. □

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YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 5)

From the tone of "The Legion Of Doom's Obsession: Dethrone The Nasty Boys In 59 Seconds!" (July 1991), I get the feeling that they'd attack Brian Knobs and Jerry Sags in a back alley somewhere instead of getting them in the ring.

In the ring, though, the Legion has piled up a bunch of countout victories against the overmatched Nastys. Of course, since the Nastys have the benefit of Jimmy Hart's interference, it makes it hard for Hawk and Animal to actually win the belts.

I say put all four of them in a cage, then you'd see how dominant the Legion is. Then maybe they *will* win in 59 seconds!

HORACE CLEVES
Potomac, MD

KEEP THE SUPERCARDS

I was surprised to see Dave Rosenbaum come out in favor of banning supercards ("No Holds Barred," July 1991). Is he serious? The supercards have been the salvation of the sport! Seeing such a big card nearly every month in the comfort of your own home is much better than the "old days," when everything was geared toward the monthly card at the arena.

As for the contention that wrestlers nowadays only give their best efforts on the supercards, that was also true back then, again because they were geared up for the big monthly arena cards.

So I say keep the supercards. They're the best thing going in wrestling today.

PAUL ABOYOUN
St. Cloud, MN

HOGAN KIN

It's very easy to see from the photos of Horace Boulder that he is related to Hulk Hogan ("Introducing Horace Boulder," July 1991). He

(Continued on page 50)

THIS MONTH IN...

Inside *Wrestling*



SID VICIOUS is in the WWF—and believe it or not, **HULK HOGAN** is in the biggest trouble of his life!



Warning to WCW: **THE DIAMOND EXCHANGE** is the second coming of **THE FOUR HORSEMEN!**

PLUS . . .

MISSY HYATT is interviewed: "I'm more of a man than **PAUL E. DANGEROUSLY** will ever be!" . . . Battle royal scandal! The WWF's perfect scheme to protect **CURT HENNIG** . . . **RICK MORTON** and **ROBERT GIBSON** square off "One On One" . . . **STEVE RAY** throws himself to the lions! . . . **RICK RUDE** is back and declares: "If you're a manager, keep the hell away!"

All this—and much more . . .
in the September 1991 issue of
Inside Wrestling

NOW ON SALE!

Wrestling 91



After flirting with death, is **THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR** scarred for life?



RIC FLAIR downs **TATSUJI FUJINAMI**—but the "Nature Boy" might never recover from this **SUPER BRAWL!**

PLUS . . .

SPECIAL EDITORIAL: 10 rules that must be changed . . . Our plea to **ANDRE THE GIANT**: Walk away—while you still can! . . . **JERRY LAWLER** vs. **THE HONKY TONK MAN**: The violent vengeance of crazed cousins! . . . "Interview 91" with **JIM CORNETTE** . . . **RICK STEINER** and **SCOTT STEINER** go "Head To Head"

All this—and much more . . .
in the Fall 1991 issue of
Wrestling 91

NOW ON SALE!

YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 48)

should be very proud of his bloodlines. It must be hard for him not to take things for granted.

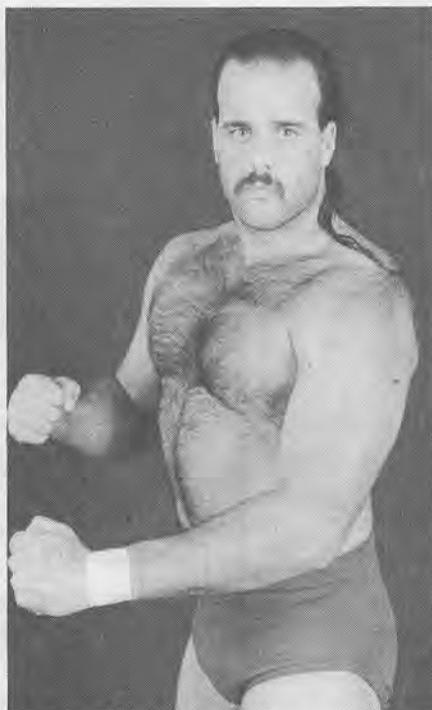
I hope that Boulder achieves even a quarter of the success of his famous uncle. With help from Hulk, it should happen.

HANK HUGHES
Ocala, FL

WORLD CONQUERORS

It had always been my belief that Rick and Scott Steiner are the best tag team in the world. And after reading "Rick & Scott Steiner: Conquering The World!" (July 1991), I'm even more convinced of my belief.

If the Steiners have the capabilities and the skills to beat an outstanding Japanese duo like Hiro Hase and Kensuke Sasaki, then they have the skills to take just about anyone. In fact, knowing what I do about great



If Horace Boulder achieves just part of the success his uncle, Hulk Hogan, has, he'll do all right in reader Hank Hughes' eyes.

tag teams of the past, I would go so far as to say the Steiners are the best ever!

Seriously, look how training methods have improved. Look at how much better conditioned today's grapplers are. Taking those factors into consideration, the Steiners stand head and shoulders above whoever the present (and past) can put before them.

I'm sure there are thousands of fans who feel the same way I do. We know that the Steiners will remain champions for a long time. And if they do lose, they'll win their titles back very quickly.

PAT REED
Los Angeles

MATT'S MEMORIES

Growing up, I was a big fan of California wrestling. Who can forget the great wars between Freddie Blassie and John Tolos? There was another wrestler I liked very much. His name is Kenji Shibuya.

So you can imagine my surprise when "Matt Brock's Looking Back"

(July 1991) featured a bout pitting Shibuya and Mr. Saito against Blassie and Eric Froelich. I happen to remember that match, and it was as thrilling as Brock described it. These teams simply did not like each other. There is really no other explanation when you look at the carnage.

Thanks, Matt, for bringing back some great (and gory!) memories.

FRED ANDERSON
Eugene, OR



The Steiners are by far the best tag team in the world, says reader Pat Reed.

OF SNAKES AND MEN

I was appalled when Earthquake crushed Jake Roberts' pet snake, Damian. It was an absolutely disgusting act, and he should be severely reprimanded for it. However, I am just as troubled that Jake has gone out and gotten himself another snake, Lucifer.

I never did like the idea of anybody bringing a snake to the ring. Not only is it downright stupid, it's an unfair advantage. I mean, how do you counteract a snake? By doing what Earthquake did, apparently.

My advice to Jake is to keep Lucifer as far away from the ring as possible.

EDWINA LEWISTON
Tulsa, OK

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S.D. EXPRESS

For years, S.D. Jones struggled valiantly in the WWF, but he never seemed to win any matches. I always felt sorry for him, because I knew he was trying his best. I knew he wasn't giving up.

Now "Special Delivery" is in the UWF and he's winning. He's proving that he always had the knowhow to achieve victory. Some may say the competition in the UWF is a lot weaker than in the WWF, but I don't think that's the reason he's winning. I think the change of atmosphere, with all the new people to wrestle, had reinvigorated him.

Jones may never win a title, but that's okay. He's a good wrestler and fun to watch, and that's all right by me.

DELLA MESSER
Gary, IN

AWESOME AUSTIN

I'm glad to see that a major organization like WCW has signed Steve Austin to wrestle for them. This tal-



"Stunning" Steve Austin will stun WCW, in reader Francis Newburg's opinion.

ented athlete, the 1990 Rookie of the Year, was one of the USWA's brightest stars. He is a fine addition to the WCW talent roster.

The only problem with him is that he's too eager to break the rules. He should rely more on his natural skills. That's all he needs to succeed.

FRANCIS NEWBURG
Bangor, ME □

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SUMMER 1986

WINTER 1984/Color pinup: Billy Jack Haynes. Stories include: Ventura, Adams, Martel, Flair, Reed.

FALL 1985/Color pinup: Steve Keirn & Stan Lane. Stories include: Albano & Hogan, DiBiase, Warriors, Garvin.

WINTER 1985/Color pinup: Barry Windham. Stories include: Hogan, Zbyszko, Kerry, R&R Express, Steamboat, Thesz.

SPRING 1986/Color pinup: The Road Warriors. Stories include: Martel, Savage vs. Poffo, Hogan, Santana, Steamboat.

SUMMER 1986/Color pinup: Rock 'n' Roll Express & Magnum T.A. Stories include: Flair, Warriors, JYD, Magnum, Williams.

FALL 1986/Color pinup: Randy Savage. Stories include: R&R Express, Missy, Roberts, Windham, Luger, Rhodes.

WINTER 1986/Color pinup: Hulk Hogan. Stories include: Flair, Freebirds, Hogan, Andre, Watts, Haynes, Fantastics.

SPRING 1987/Color pinup: The Four Horsemen. Stories include: Ventura, T.A., Bulldogs, Adias, Savage-Steamboat.

SUMMER 1987/Color pinup: Road Warriors workout. Stories include: Hogan-Andre, Rockers, Koloff, Warriors, Hall-Luger.

FALL 1987/Color pinup: Dark Journey. Stories include: Albano, Hogan, T.A., Lane, Hyatt, Hennig, Luger.

WINTER 1987/Color pinup: Jesse Ventura. Stories include: Kerry, Rhodes, Hogan, Flair, Honky Tonk, DiBiase.

SPRING 1988/Color pinup: Elizabeth. Stories include: Hennig, Koloff, Savage, Strike Force, Warriors, Andre-Hogan.

SUMMER 1988/Color pinup: Missy Hyatt. Stories include: Rock 'n' Roll Express, Hogan, Sting, Luger, Owen Hart, Animal.

FALL 1988/Color pinup: Madusa Miceli. Stories include: Savage, Hyatt, Von Erich, Triple Dome, Demolition, Steamboat, Heenan, Lawler.

WINTER 1988/Color pinup: Randy Savage. Stories include: DiBiase, Flair, Duggan, Sting, Piper, Luger, Brody.

SPRING 1989/Color pinup: Rick Steamboat. Stories include: Bigelow, Lawler, Blazer, Sting, Ultimate-Hogan, Jake-Andre, Powers of Pain.

SUMMER 1989/Color pinup: Sting & Lex Luger. Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Sting & Ultimate, Warriors, Nikita, Luger.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

(Continued from page 7)

The Freebirds made his debut at Super Brawl '91. In fact, Fantasia's interference was the big reason why **Jim Garvin** and **Michael Hayes** were able to defeat **The Young Pistols** for the U.S. tag team title on the pay-per-view card. Freebird manager **"Diamond" Dallas Page** has kept the masked man's identity a closely guarded secret.

"If you knew who Fantasia was, you'd be shocked!" laughed the sinister manager. "Right now, I'm building the greatest fighting force WCW has ever seen. Not only do I have Hayes, Garvin, and Fantasia, but now I have **The Diamond Stud** and my road boss, **Big Daddy Dink**, too! Pretty soon, we're gonna hold every belt there is to hold, and then we're gonna invite all my **Diamond Dolls** to the biggest party ever—one that's never gonna end, baby!"

Not everyone is so pleased with Page's newfound success. **Tracey Smothers** of the Pistols is demanding matches against Fantasia and any partner he chooses.

"The only reason Fantasia was able to DDT both myself and **Steve Armstrong** is because he attacked us from behind," said an angry Smothers. "I want a match against that guy and any partner he wants. Once we get him in the ring, we'll unmask him and reveal his identity to the whole world. And if Page and Dink want to get involved, we'll give them what they deserve. We'll pluck the feathers right off those Freebirds!"

"Dirty White Boy" Tony Anthony has returned to the USWA following a short stint in the WWC. He's picked up where he left off in his feud with **Bill Dundee** . . . Speaking of the WWC, **Billy Travis** and veteran **El Gran Mendoza** defeated **In-vader I** and **Bronco I** to win the WWC tag team title on May 22 in San Juan . . . Huge former arm-wrestling champion **Scott Norton**



Pacific Northwest star and former arm-wrestling champion Scott Norton says he'll give \$5,000 to anyone who can beat him in a battle royal.

has returned to the Pacific Northwest, and he's putting up \$5,000 to anyone who can beat him in a battle royal . . . **Charlie Norris** regained the PWA title by defeating **The Golden Idol** on May 11 in Fridley, Minnesota.

There was a rash of serious injuries in the sport just as we were preparing to go to press. Georgia star **Scotty the Body** suffered a broken right shoulder in a match against promising newcomer **Chris Candido** on May 25 in

Stratford, New Jersey. **Hawk of The Legion Of Doom** had surgery to correct a herniated disk in his back and was expected to be out of action for up to six weeks. Intercontinental champion **Curt Hennig** was forced to take time off with an injured tailbone. And **Andre the Giant**, whose right leg was injured in an attack by **Earthquake** on May 6 in Rockford, Illinois, had surgery on the limb in early-May.

That's all for now. See you at the matches! □

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June 1983/Stories include: Windham, Martel, Brody, Andre.

July 1983/Stories include: Flair, Adonis, Sullivan, Zbyszko.

August 1983/Stories include: Valentine, Blanchard, Windham, Street.

September 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Briscos.

October 1983/Stories include: Race, Sawyer, Briscos, Bass.

November 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Santana, Von Erichs, Kabuki.

December 1983/Stories include: Mascaras, Superstar, Von Erich, Zbyszko.

March 1984/Stories include: Santana, Hogan, Von Erich, Sawyers.

April 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Rhodes.

May 1984/Stories include: Windham, Brody, Road Warriors, Junkyard Dog.

June 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Billy Jack, Flair, Armstrong.

July 1984/Stories include: Rich, Billy Jack, Valiant, Von Erich.

August 1984/Stories include: Garvin, Sullivan, Freebirds, Street.

September 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Piper, Steamboat, Billy Jack.

October 1984/Stories include: Flair, Rhodes, Magnum T.A., Bundy.

November 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Von Erich, Piper, Brody.

December 1984/Stories include: Martel, Santana, Von Erich, Steamboat.

January 1985/Stories include: Von Erich, Warriors, Albano, Koloffs.

February 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Santana, Billy Jack, Nikita Koloff.

March 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Warriors, Martel, Rude.

April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Von Erich-Adams, Flair, Tonga & Snuka.

May 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Backlund, Santana, Rich.

June 1985/Stories include: Rhodes, Windham, Rich, Hogan.

July 1985/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Reed, Martel, Sunshine.

August 1985/BONUS COLOR SECTION! Plus: Warriors, Magnum T.A., Sheik & Volkoff, McGraw.

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October 1985/Stories include: Flair, Windham, Shultz, Martel.

November 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Zbyszko, R&R Express, Von Erichs.

December 1985/Stories include: Rude, Fantastics, Muraco, Uncle Elmer.

January 1986/BONUS COLOR SECTION! Plus: Slaughter, Rich, Flair, Kerry.

February 1986/Stories include: Hogan, Orndorf, Flair, Hansen.

March 1986/Stories include: Von Erich, Duggan, Hansen-Martel.

April 1986/Stories include: Von Erich, Rude, Lugar, Hogan, Magnum T.A.

May 1986/Stories include: Zbyszko, Von Erichs, Santana-Ventura, Hillbillies.

June 1986/Stories include: Lugar, Hernandez, Flair-Bockwinkel, Hogan, T.A.

July 1986/Stories include: King Kong Bundy, Koloff vs. Graham, Ric Flair.

August 1986/Stories include: Snuka, Bulldogs, Freebirds, Warriors, Duggan.

September 1986/Stories include: Fantastics, Adonis, Morton-Flair, Brody.

October 1986/Stories include: Nikita-Magnum, Nord, Bruno, Kerry, Windham.

November 1986/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan-Orndorf, Von Erich.

December 1986/Stories include: Flair, Bockwinkel, Hogan, Gilbert, Nikita.

January 1987/Stories include: Heenan, Garvin, DiBiase, Borne & Sawyer.

February 1987/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Gordy, Steamboat-Roberts.

March 1987/Stories include: Windham, Nikita, Adias, Savage-Steamboat.

April 1987/Stories include: Hogan, Luger, Rich-Lawler, R&R Express.

May 1987/Stories include: Flair-Nikita, Andre-Hogan, UWF, Windham, Hennig.

June 1987/Stories include: Flair-Windham, Can-Ams, Rhodes-Murdoch.

July 1987/Stories include: Cornette, Hyatt, Luger, Harts, Adams, Hansen.

August 1987/Stories include: Can-Ams, Luger vs. Nikita, Fantastics, Koko, Nord.

September 1987/Stories include: Koloff, Harts, Duggan, Hennig, Hart.

October 1987/Stories include: Savage-Honky Tonk, Horsemen, Patera, Kerr.

November 1987/Stories include: Williams, Luger, Hogan-Khan, Rich.

December 1987/Stories include: Hogan, Windham, Lawler, Flair, Beefcake.

January 1988/Stories include: Nikita-Taylor, Warriors, DiBiase-Duggan.

February 1988/Stories include: Flair, Andre-Hogan, New Breed, Kerr.

March 1988/Stories include: Hogan, Luger-Sting, Calgary, Demolition.

April 1988/Stories include: Bonus 4-page color section! Starrcade, Survivor Series, World Class.

May 1988/Stories include: Horsemen, Hogan, Flair, Fantastics, DiBiase.

June 1988/Stories include: Sting-Flair, DiBiase, Kerr, Nikita, Zenk.

July 1988/Stories include: Fantastics, Hogan, Windham, McMahon, Rich.

August 1988/Stories include: Savage, Windham-Luger split, Demolition, Lawler, Ellering.

September 1988/Stories include: Duggan vs. Andre, Hogan, Windham.

October 1988/Stories include: Rhodes, Fantastics, Hennig, Roberts-Rude.

November 1988/Stories include: Midnight Ex., DiBiase, Bossman, Brody.

January 1989/Stories include: Kevin Von, Rougeaus, Horsemen, Hogan.

February 1989/Stories include: Warriors, Ultimate-Hogan, Bigelow-Gordy.

March 1989/Stories include: Jarrett, Flair, Jake-Andre, Bigelow-Windham.

April 1989/Stories include: Bulldogs, Warriors, Andre, Hogan-Savage.

May 1989/Stories include: Steamboat, Savage-Hogan, Dusty, Valentine.

June 1989/Stories include: Steamboat, Martel, Ultimate-Savage, Luger, Flair.

July 1989/Stories include: Warrior, Hogan-Bravo, Flair-Steamboat, Rhodes.

September 1989/Stories include: Flair-Funk, Piper, Demolition, Zeus.

October 1989/Stories include: Hogan & Beefcake vs. Zeus & Savage, Hyatt, Hayes, Long, Embry, WWF Horsemen.

November 1989/Stories include: Piper-Savage-Hogan, Dusty, Flair-Funk.

December 1989/Stories include: Muta-Sting, Andre-Ultimate, Windham.

January 1990/Stories include: Pillman, Hogan, Rich-Luger, Tully & Arn.

February 1990/Stories include: Sting-Luger, Gordy, Martel, Hogan-Brown.

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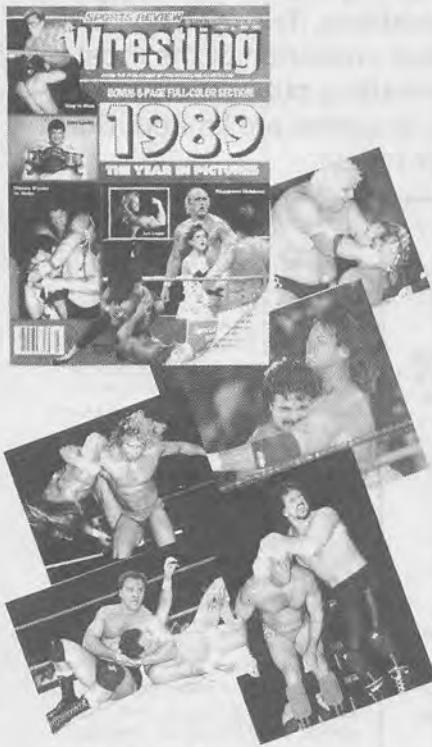
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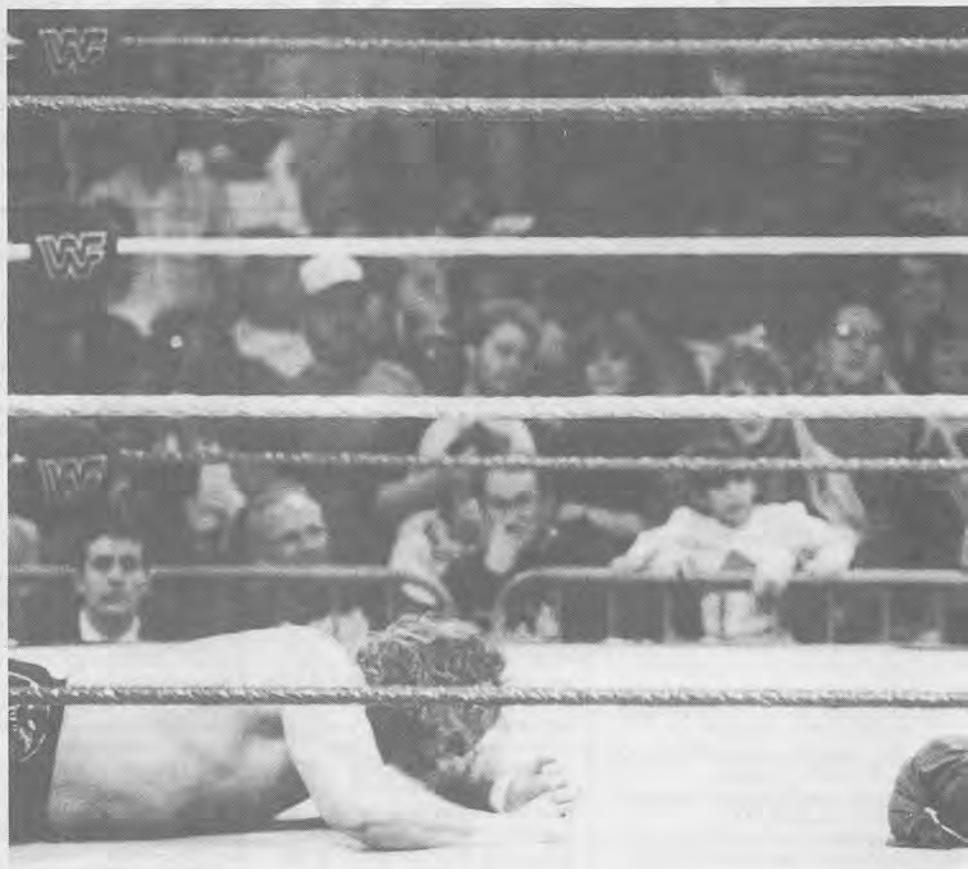
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NO HOLDS BARRED

(Continued from page 8)



snake population. That's my gut feeling. But when I really examine the situation, I realize that what Earthquake did was heartless and cruel. Some people actually like snakes. And, let's face it, Damian never did anything wrong. He was simply mishandled by his owner.

Maybe Earthquake should have splashed Roberts and made 'Quakeburgers out of him (and I'm sure the thought has crossed his mind!).

Roberts reminds me of the owners of pit bulls. The pit bulls do, indeed, attack people, but this is not a natural instinct. They are *taught* to be vicious. And since they have the equipment to carry out their orders, they are perceived to be naturally violent animals.

This is not true. The *owners* are the naturally violent ones.

In other words, if you're going

to send anyone to the pound, send Roberts.

Now, I usually don't defend snakes, but I've had a change of heart. It is clear that human beings have often exploited animals. Perhaps there was nothing wrong with Damian. I've been told that snakes are not slimy and slimy. Actually, those in the know say they're rough to the touch. I do not want to find out for myself.

So, Roberts was cruel to Damian by draping him over opponents. And Earthquake, acting in self-defense because he never wanted that snake on his body again, acted.

He should have made Jakeburgers.

Unfortunately, there are more snakes where Damian came from. Roberts has already unleashed Lucifer upon an unsuspecting WWF.



Jake would have avoided his loss if he'd kept Damian away, Rosenbaum says.

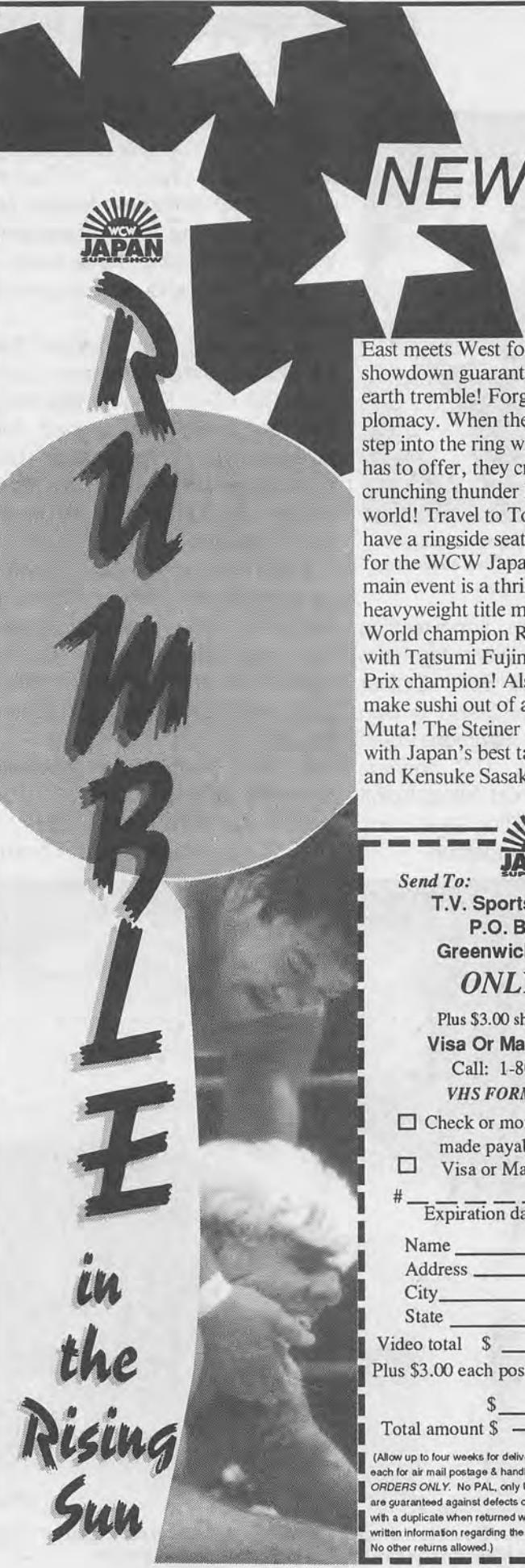
I saw Steve Anderson's cartoon in *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly*, in which he suggested that only the ASPCA could stop Earthquake. My feeling is that the ASPCA should not forget about Roberts. This man should be banned from pet-ownership!

Pet owners have a responsibility to their animals. If a dog gets run over by a car, do you blame the driver? No, you blame the owner that let the pet run loose near the highway in the first place.

This is common sense.

By the way, deep inside, I'm really happy that Damian isn't around anymore. The thing is disgusting. Still, I don't want 'Quakeburgers, either.

Just pass me an order of fried frog's legs. □



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CORRESPONDENTS REPORTS

(Continued from page 14)



Ric Flair defeated Brian Pillman in a best-of-three-falls match in Atlanta, but sustained a lot of punishment in doing so.

Dangerously in an arm-wrestling contest ... WCW World tag team champions Rick & Scott Steiner beat The Angel of Death & Dan Spivey ... Ron Simmons beat One Man Gang ... U.S. champion Lex Luger pinned Nikita Koloff ... El Gigante & Sting beat Barry Windham & Arn Anderson.

Bloomington, MN (Correspondent—Steve Anderson): Greg Gagne and Wahoo McDaniel came out of retirement to take on former AWA tag team champions Wayne Bloom and Mike Enos—the very men who sent them into retirement!

At the start, the younger duo dominated with power and quick tags. But when Enos hit McDaniel over the head with a chair, the veterans were rejuvenated. Despite being bloodied by the blow, Wahoo laced into Enos with a series of vicious chops.

After Bloom broke Gagne's sleeperhold on Enos, Bloom and McDaniel began fighting outside the ring. That's when Gagne came back and executed a flying bodypress on Enos and scored the pin.

In other bouts: Buck Zumhofe defeated Johnny Love ... The Karate Kid beat Tokyo Joe ... Larry Cameron defeated Tommy

Jammer ... Steve O beat Ricky Rice.

Philadelphia, PA (Correspondent—Samuel Homer): "Ravishing" Rick Rude is famous for showing off his well-carved body, but fans got more than they bargained for as Rude battled Paul Orndorff in Philadelphia.

The two veteran grapplers fought for control of the match throughout the early going. Several minutes in, Orndorff grabbed Rude by the waist, apparently preparing to sunset-flip his foe. Instead, he yanked Rude's pants down to his thighs! Derisive laughter rained down on Rude as he scrambled to cover himself.

Rude channeled his embarrassment into intensity and the pace of the match picked up. The key moment came when Orndorff and Rude collided and referee John Finnegan got caught in the middle. The force of the collision rocked both wrestlers and left Finnegan sprawled unconscious on the mat.

Rude saw a chance to steal a tainted victory. Thinking Finnegan wouldn't see what he was up to, Rude grabbed a chair and smashed Orndorff to the canvas. But the referee had opened his eyes just in time to catch Rude in his illegal act and immediately disqualified him.

In other bouts: Pit Bull Spike won a 13-man battle royal ... Johnny Hot Body & Larry Winters beat Jimmy Jannetty & Rockin' Rebel ... Al Perez & Buddy Landell defeated The Fabulous Ones by reverse decision ... D.C. Drake pinned J.T. Smith ... USWA champion Jerry Lawler beat The Honky Tonk Man by reverse decision ... Eddie Gilbert fought Cactus Jack to a no-contest. □



Greg Gagne, flipping Wayne Bloom to the mat, joined Wahoo McDaniel in coming out of retirement to battle Bloom and Mike Enos on an AWA card in Bloomington, Minnesota.

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In which sport did Ken Patera win an Olympic medal?

1) Weightlifting 3) Gymnastics
2) Wrestling 4) Boxing

Who was Hulk Hogan's first WWF manager?

1) Fred Blassie 3) Jimmy Hart
2) Arnold Skaaland 4) Elizabeth

Which man was never a member of Paul Ellering's Legion of Doom?

1) Jake Roberts 3) King Kong Bundy
2) Hawk 4) Buzz Sawyer

For which NFL team did Brian Pillman compete?

1) Kansas City Chiefs 3) Cincinnati Bengals
2) Los Angeles Rams 4) Atlanta Falcons

Gorilla Monsoon was originally billed as being from:

1) Manchuria 3) New Jersey
2) Croatia 4) Montreal

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YOU ASKED US

(Continued from page 16)

close, and now I know every move in his arsenal. Every one. That's a big plus for me, because he won't be able to surprise me with any kind of wild maneuver that I haven't seen before. I don't think it will be easy to beat Ric, but I know that I have the talent to get the job done. He has a few soft spots that not too many people know about. I'm one of the very few who knows his every weakness! I'll get my title shot one of these days—and you can bet I'll take full advantage of it!"

Q: "This question is for El Gigante: Would you like the chance to wres-

tle Andre the Giant?"—Marc Pecoraro, Fairlawn, NJ

A: "Andre is a legend, and it would be an honor to wrestle against him," said Gigante through a translator. "Some people say he is too old, but I don't know. When a man is that big, he can use his size to take him a very long way. It would be a challenge to face Andre, because he is the only wrestler I know who rivals my size. I would like to wrestle him one day. But for now, I am only worried about wrestling Ric Flair and the other contenders in WCW. Those matches are more important."



El Gigante (above left) says he would be honored to square off against Andre the Giant (above right), but adds that there are more important matters in WCW.

Q: "I have a question for Eric Embry: Many fans in Texas have started hating you. Why? I'm sure you don't care what the fans think, but why do they feel this way? What's your opinion?"—Bronwyn Perry, Dallas



The USWA's Eric Embry wishes more fans in Texas would cheer him for all the good things he says about the state when he wrestles in Tennessee.

A: "You're right, I *don't care*," said Embry angrily. "Wait a minute. Actually, it *does* bother me a little bit. I'm not going to change myself for anyone, but it would be nice to have the fans pulling for me every now and then. I think people just get jealous when they see what a fantastic wrestler I am. Also, Jerry Lawler has found a lot of fans in Texas, and those people see me as the biggest threat to Lawler's USWA title—which by the way, I plan to make mine in the very near future. Lawler's fans don't like the idea of their hero going down, so they take their feelings out on me. Ingrates! In Memphis, I talk up good things about Texas all the time, and this is how those rubes repay me." □

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INTRODUCING

(Continued from page 18)



Beach immobilizes Larry of the Power Twins during a UWF card in New York City that saw Beach and "Wild Thing" Steve Ray score a Wet 'n' Wild victory.

fans. I just love to go from town to town and meet the good people out there."

Originally from Santa Monica, California, Beach became an outstanding amateur wrestler, capturing all-city and all-state honors before graduating from Terry Parker High School in Jacksonville, Florida. Beach went on to attend Florida State University and the University of North Florida, majoring in criminal justice. However, a chance meeting with a former wrestler while serving as a part-time lifeguard on a beach in Jacksonville changed the youngster's life forever.

Beach was summoned into duty when a 14-year-old youngster had drifted too far from the

shore on his raft. Beach quickly raced into action, swimming out to the boy, pulling him to shore, then bringing his dehydrated body back to consciousness. On the beach at the time was veteran wrestler Don Curtis, who was impressed with Beach's size and speed.

"Don walked right up to me and asked if I'd consider becoming a wrestler," recalled Beach. "I had never really thought about it before, but I've always been a fan. Growing up in Florida, I used to go to the matches and thrill to my favorites: Jack and Jerry Brisco, Dusty Rhodes, and Mike Graham. To think that I could do what they do just blew me

away."

Beach's amateur training obviously served him well; he was ready to begin his pro career after only one month of training. Beach impressed Florida fans by defeating veteran Jim Backlund in July 1985 in St. Petersburg. After his first taste of victory, Sunny was ready to shine even more.

"Right away, I knew I had a lot going for me," said Beach. "My 'wipeout,' which is like a top-rope DDT, is a move nobody's ever gotten up from yet. Add to that my 'sunset sleeper' and all my of suplex variations—not to mention my size—and it makes me a pretty hard guy to beat."

Soon, Beach became known as an excellent tag team partner. In 1988, he and "Sugar" Ray Lloyd won the Peach State tag team title. After a yearlong stint in the WWF, he teamed with The Terminator to win the IWA tag team title in August 1990, a championship they still hold. More recently, he's formed an outstanding duo called Wet 'n' Wild with "Wild Thing" Steve Ray in the UWF.

Meanwhile, Beach has become a main-event star on the East Coast, where his feud with Cactus Jack continues to draw considerable attention. Beach is one of the few men who can match the devious Cactus on his own, violent terms.

"I don't like guys who conduct themselves like that," said Beach. "I like to have a good time, but Jack's got to learn I can be pushed too far. Other than my matches with him, my career has been a pure pleasure. As long as I have the fans behind me, I'll go anywhere—and take on anybody." □

LEGION OF DOOM

(Continued from page 33)



For how long would the *old* Legion have put up with the Nastys' tactics (above)? If Animal cannot counteract Brian Knobs (bottom), the Legion may not be the team they once were.

seconds. Tonight they faced, what—Frankie DeFalco and Tom Dewitt, and W.T. Jones and Brian Costello, and they seemed to have to work a little bit for the wins. Against prelim bums! Plus they wrestled the Nastys to a countout. Okay, they beat them, but The Road Warriors of old wouldn't have settled for anything less than mass destruction of Jerry Sags and Brian Knobs. Frankly, I was disappointed."

Indeed, disappointment seems to be a common thread among those who have followed Hawk and Animal's careers since their 1983 debut in Georgia.

"I always respected Hawk and Animal," says a young fan favorite who requested anonymity. "They did things in their own way and on their own terms. It's not the way I could wrestle in my own career, I'm simply not like that. But you couldn't help but respect a team that said what they were going to do—then actually went out and did it."

"It's kind of funny, but I hear a lot of talk about Hawk and Animal, and I sense the disappointment in the fans' eyes too," the wrestler continued. "I think a lot of that has to do with the fact that they didn't win the WWF World tag

team title right after they arrived in the WWF. I mean, they moved to the WWF in June 1990. We're talking now in May, so that's almost a whole year that they've been in the federation without winning the belts."

If one feels that people are being too critical of The Legion of Doom, remember that Hawk and Animal's fans have learned to expect quick

results from the muscular duo. They captured the Georgia tag team title almost immediately upon their 1983 debut. After arriving in the AWA in 1984, they won the tag team title there in a matter of just a few weeks. When they teamed with Dusty Rhodes in quest of the WCW six-man tag team title, they garnered that championship after just a few weeks as a team. When that team split, they were determined to win the WCW World tag team belts—and did by defeating The Midnight Express on October 29, 1988.

"And that's just the short list of their accomplishments," said Paul Ellering, who managed Hawk and Animal from 1983 until their arrival in the WWF. "They've always been the kind of team that gets what they want."

Which raises the question: Do Hawk and Animal really want the WWF World tag team title? Do they want to face the rigors of nightly





If the Legion doesn't win the belts soon, they'll become just another WWF tag team struggling toward the top.

title defenses again (they've been there so many times before)? Do they want to step into the championship spotlight with all the attendant pressures and aggravations?

Or do Hawk and Animal simply want to cruise their way through the WWF as they have for the past year, wrestling whomever the federation places in front of them and exerting whatever effort necessary (not necessarily *maximum* effort) in order to gain a win—any kind of win—then shower and go home?

All too often lately, it seems like the Legion is cruising.

"I really hope that something happens soon to kick Hawk and Animal back into high gear," said Mark Scherer, who witnessed yet another Legion-Nastys countout decision in St. Louis. "A whole year, and they haven't won the belts. Well, maybe if they ever do win the belts from the Nastys it'll put some spark back into them, but I'm not holding my breath."

"There are plenty of other teams out there," Scherer said, "some of them with better moves and others with more fire in their bellies. The Legion of Doom is fast becoming just another team, as far as I'm concerned."

That's something that never would have been said about Hawk and Animal five years ago.

How disappointing. □

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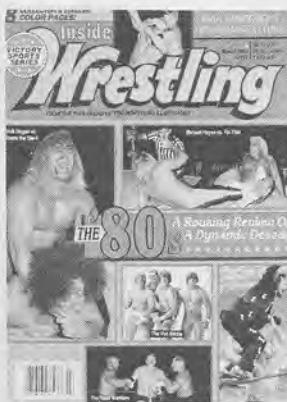
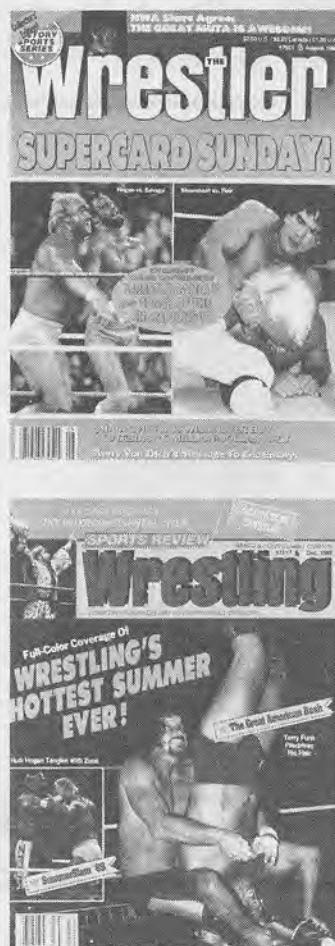
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◀ SPECIAL ISSUE #2

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Wnester^{THE}Wrestler

TOP 10

- 1 **RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
(2) WCW World champion
- 2 **HULK HOGAN**
292, Venice Beach, CA
(1) WWF World champion
- 3 **LEX LUGER**
290, Chicago, IL
(3) WCW U.S. champion
- 4 **CURT HENNIG**
235, Minneapolis, MN
(5) WWF Intercontinental champion
- 5 **STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
(6) No. 2 contender: WCW title
- 6 **NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Lithuania
(7) No. 1 contender: U.S. title
- 7 **BOBBY EATON**
233, Huntsville, AL
(-) WCW TV champion
- 8 **DAVEY BOY SMITH**
245, Leeds, England
(-) No. 1 contender: I-C title
- 9 **SGT. SLAUGHTER**
310, Parris Island, SC
(8) No. 2 contender: WWF title
- 10 **ERIC EMBRY**
240, Lexington, KY
(-) USWA Southern champion



The Nasty Boys

TAG TEAMS

- 1 **RICK & SCOTT STEINER**
Combined weight: 483 pounds
(1) WCW World tag team champions
- 2 **THE NASTY BOYS**
Combined weight: 585 pounds
(2) WWF World tag team champions
- 3 **THE LEGION OF DOOM**
Combined weight: 567 pounds
(3) No. 1 contenders: WWF tag team title
- 4 **THE FREEBIRDS**
Combined weight: 490 pounds
(5) WCW U.S. tag team champions
- 5 **THE ROCKERS**
Combined weight: 450 pounds
(6) No. 2 contenders: WWF tag team title
- 6 **ROBERT FULLER & JEFF JARRETT**
Combined weight: 457 pounds
(-) USWA tag team champions
- 7 **THE YOUNG PISTOLS**
Combined weight: 451 pounds
(4) No. 1 contenders: U.S. tag team title
- 8 **THE BRUISE BROTHERS**
Combined weight: 541 pounds
(10) Pacific Northwest tag team champions
- 9 **DAN SPIVEY & ANGEL OF DEATH**
Combined weight: 610 pounds
(-) No. 1 contenders: WCW tag team title
- 10 **THE BUSHWHACKERS**
Combined weight: 542 pounds
(8) No. 3 contenders: WWF tag team title

WCW

World Champion:

RIC FLAIR
(C) 243, Minneapolis, MN

- 1—**LEX LUGER**
(1) 290, Chicago, IL
- 2—**STING**
(3) 260, Venice Beach, CA
- 3—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
(4) 275, Lithuania
- 4—**BOBBY EATON**
(7) 233, Huntsville, AL
- 5—**RON SIMMONS**
(6) 260, Perry, GA
- 6—**DUSTIN RHODES**
(-) 254, Austin, TX
- 7—**EL GIGANTE**
(5) 435, Argentina
- 8—**BRIAN PILLMAN**
(-) 226, Cincinnati, OH
- 9—**BARRY WINDHAM**
(-) 263, Sweetwater, TX
- 10—**STAN HANSEN**
(-) 322, Borger, TX

WWF

World Champion:

HULK HOGAN
(C) 292, Venice Beach, CA

- 1—**CURT HENNIG**
(1) 235, Minneapolis, MN
- 2—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**
(2) 310, Parris Island, SC
- 3—**THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
(3) 280, Queens, NY
- 4—**DAVEY BOY SMITH**
(6) 245, Leeds, England
- 5—**THE UNDERTAKER**
(4) 320, Dallas, TX
- 6—**JAKE ROBERTS**
(-) 246, Stone Mountain, GA
- 7—**EARTHQUAKE**
(10) 462, Surrey, BC
- 8—**THE MOUNTIE**
(-) 232, Montreal, Quebec
- 9—**IRWIN R. SHYSTER**
(8) 245, Syracuse, NY
- 10—**TED DIBIASE**
(-) 247, Omaha, NB

USWA

USWA Champion:

JERRY LAWLER
(C) 234, Memphis, TN

- 1—**ERIC EMBRY**
(2) 240, Lexington, KY
- 2—**BILL DUNDEE**
(3) 214, Melbourne, Aus.
- 3—**EDDIE GILBERT**
(4) 222, Lexington, TN
- 4—**TONY ANTHONY**
(-) 235, Bucksport, TN
- 5—**TOM PRICHARD**
(6) 220, Houston, TX
- 6—**GARY YOUNG**
(9) 218, Houston, TX
- 7—**CHRIS CANDIDO**
(-) 227, Carteret, NJ
- 8—**JEFF JARRETT**
(1) 200, Hendersonville, TN
- 9—**DOUG GILBERT**
(-) 230, Lexington, TN
- 10—**EL GRANDE PISTOLERO**
(10) 225, Mexico

PNW

PNW Champion:

STEVE DOLL
(C) 237, Dallas, TX

- 1—**THE GRAPPLER**
(8) 280, parts unknown
- 2—**LARRY OLIVER**
(9) 260, Tampa, FL
- 3—**DOUG MASTERS**
(2) 230, Tulsa, OK
- 4—**STEVE SAWYER**
(4) 222, Kansas City, MO
- 5—**MIKE WINNER**
(5) 238, Virginia City, VA
- 6—**AL MADRIL**
(6) 231, Los Angeles, CA
- 7—**THE EQUALIZER**
(1) 250, parts unknown
- 8—**RIP OLIVER**
(7) 245, Tampa, FL
- 9—**JIMMY JACK FUNK**
(3) 243, Portland, OR
- 10—**BOBBY BLAIR**
(10) 275, Dallas, TX

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue, while (C) indicates the wrestler was champion in that category last issue.

MOST POPULAR

1	HULK HOGAN
292, Venice Beach, CA	
Last issue: No. 1 Most Popular	
2	LEX LUGER
290, Chicago, IL	
Last issue: No. 3 Most Popular	
3	STING
260, Venice Beach, CA	
Last issue: No. 2 Most Popular	
4	SCOTT STEINER
235, Bay City, MI	
Last issue: No. 8 Most Popular	
5	EL GIGANTE
435, Argentina	
Last issue: No. 4 Most Popular	
6	THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR
280, Queens, NY	
Last issue: No. 5 Most Popular	
7	RICK STEINER
248, Detroit, MI	
Last issue: No. 10 Most Popular	
8	JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN	
Last issue: No. 7 Most Popular	
9	DAVEY BOY SMITH
245, Leeds, England	
Last issue: unrated	
10	BOBBY EATON
233, Huntsville, AL	
Last issue: unrated	

MOST HATED

1	NIKITA KOLOFF
275, Lithuania	
Last issue: No. 10 Most Hated	
2	THE UNDERTAKER
320, Dallas, TX	
Last issue: No. 1 Most Hated	
3	EARTHQUAKE
462, Montreal, Quebec	
Last issue: No. 3 Most Hated	
4	RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN	
Last issue: No. 2 Most Hated	
5	SGT. SLAUGHTER
310, Parris Island, SC	
Last issue: No. 4 Most Hated	
6	ERIC EMBRY
240, Lexington, KY	
Last issue: No. 7 Most Hated	
7	CURT HENNIG
235, Minneapolis, MN	
Last issue: No. 5 Most Hated	
8	ARN ANDERSON
249, Minneapolis, MN	
Last issue: No. 8 Most Hated	
9	BARRY WINDHAM
263, Sweetwater, TX	
Last issue: No. 6 Most Hated	
10	IRWIN R. SHYSTER
245, Syracuse, NY	
Last issue: No. 9 Most Hated	

UWF

UWF TV Champion: NONE

To be determined

1 — STEVE WILLIAMS
(3) 265, Norman, OK
2 — BAM BAM BIGELOW
(6) 368, Mt. Laurel, NJ
3 — TERRY GORDY
(-) 289, Chattanooga, TN
4 — STEVE RAY
(10) 255, Leavenworth, KS
5 — BRIAN BLAIR
(5) 235, Tampa, FL
6 — DON MURACO
(-) 274, Sunset Beach, HI
7 — BOB ORTON
(4) 245, Kansas City, KS
8 — JOSHUA BEN-GURION
(-) 270, Israel
9 — SOUL TRAIN PHILLIPS
(-) 241, Philadelphia, PA
10 — S.D. JONES
(-) 238, Antigua, West Indies

IWCCW

IWCCW Champion: NONE

To be determined

1 — TONY ATLAS
(1) 247, Roanoke, VA
2 — KEVIN VON ERICH
(2) 235, Denton, TX
3 — TASMANIAC
(4) 245, Tasmania
4 — RAY ODYSSEY
(-) 205, Palm Beach, FL
5 — SCOTT PUTSKI
(10) 235, Austin, TX
6 — G.Q. MADISON
(-) 244, New York, NY
7 — MONDO KLEEN
(-) 270, Jilin, China
8 — IVAN PUTSKI
(-) 242, Krakow, Poland
9 — JOE SAVOLDI
(6) 220, Parsippany, NJ
10 — CURLY MOE
(9) 555, Mudville, OH

For period ended May 31, 1991

CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of those issues—in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only—and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a number-one rating, nine for a number-two ranking, and so on down to one point for a number-10 rating. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, allowing a maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

SINGLES

1 — STING	..... 80 points
2 — LEX LUGER	..... 71 points
3 — RIC FLAIR	..... 63 points
4 — CURT HENNIG	..... 60 points
5 — THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR	..... 56 points

TAG TEAMS

1 — RICK & SCOTT STEINER	..... 88 points
2 — THE HART FOUNDATION	..... 68 points
3 — DOOM	..... 58 points
4 — THE LEGION OF DOOM	..... 51 points
5 — THE NASTY BOYS	..... 42 points

GEORGIA: Georgia All-Star champion—Joel Deaton; 1—Steve Lawler; 2—Billy Black; 3—Nick Busick; 4—Fabian; 5—Chris Walker; 6—Randy Rose; 7—Jon Michaels; 8—Mike Cervich; 9—Festus; 10—Van Hammer.

IWA: IWA champion—Manny Fernandez; 1—Preston Steele; 2—Jules Strongbow; 3—Larry Cameron; 4—Derrick Dukes; 5—Thunderfoot II; 6—Kevin Von Erich; 7—Ivan Koloff; 8—Col. DeBeers; 9—Bob Orton; 10—Rikki Nelson.

LPWA: LPWA champion—Lady X; 1—Reggie Bennett; 2—Magnificent Mimi; 3—Terri Power; 4—Bambi; 5—Susan Sexton; 6—Madusa Miceli; 7—Denise Storm; 8—Heidi Lee Morgan; 9—The Beast; 10—Misty Blue Simmes.

PWA: PWA champion—Charlie Norris; 1—Golden Idol; 2—The Shocker; 3—Derrick Dukes; 4—Terminator Riggs; 5—Lightning Kid; 6—Steve O; 7—Tommy Jammer; 8—Tommy Ferrara; 9—Jerry Lynn; 10—Randy Gust.

SAPW: SAPW champion—Vince Torelli; 1—Chris Chavis; 2—Curtis Thompson; 3—Ranger Ross; 4—Paul Jones; 5—Ivan Koloff; 6—Tommy Seabolt; 7—Ron Garvin; 8—Wahoo McDaniel; 9—Jackie Fulton; 10—Bobby Fulton.

TRI-STATE: Tri-State champion—D.C. Drake; 1—J.T. Smith; 2—Tony Stetson; 3—Larry Winters; 4—Johnny Hot Body; 5—Cactus Jack; 6—Rockin' Rebel; 7—Jimmy Jannetty; 8—C.N. Redd; 9—Mr. Sandman; 10—Cry Baby Waldo.

WWC: WWC champion—Carlos Colon; 1—Polynesian Prince; 2—Dino Bravo; 3—King Kong; 4—TNT; 5—Invader I; 6—Abdullah the Butcher; 7—Rod Price; 8—Giant Warrior; 9—Dick Murdoch; 10—Ron Garvin.

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating over 200 wrestlers in 20 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

Rating the contenders. In response to many reader requests, this month's "Ratings Analysis" focuses on the top contenders to two important titles: the WCW U.S. championship and the WWF Intercontinental belt.

WWF INTERCONTINENTAL TITLE

Champion:

CURT HENNIG

235, Minneapolis, MN

1—DAVEY BOY SMITH

245, Leeds, England

2—KERRY VON ERICH

260, Denton, TX

3—RODDY PIPER

231, Glasgow, Scotland

4—BRET HART

235, Calgary, Alberta

5—GREG VALENTINE

243, Seattle, WA



Kerry Von Erich

Analysis: The former member of **The British Bulldogs** (with **Dynamite Kid**) has gained the majority of opportunities at "Mr. Perfect's" belt in recent weeks, but has been pinned by Hennig several times. He's in danger of dropping to the number-two slot ... The "Texas Tornado," the man Hennig beat for the title, won several battle royals to face Hennig in May, but mainly won by disqualification ... The "Rowdy Scot" came the closest of these contenders to beating Hennig in late 1990, but recently has gotten sidetracked in a feud with **Ted DiBiase** ... Hart also fared well against Hennig in three spring bouts against the champ, but for some reason hasn't gained further title opportunities ... "The Hammer," a former I-C champion, has looked sharp since breaking from Hart's stable and may be granted title matches soon.

WCW U.S. TITLE

Champion:

LEX LUGER

290, Chicago, IL

1—NIKITA KOLOFF

275, Lithuania

2—BARRY WINDHAM

263, Sweetwater, TX

3—STAN HANSEN

322, Borger, TX

4—DAN SPIVEY

300, Tampa, FL

5—RON SIMMONS

260, Perry, GA



Ron Simmons

Analysis: The "Russian Nightmare" has received the bulk of the title matches against the "Total Package" in recent weeks, but Luger has turned back the challenge of the muscular rulebreaker thus far ... Windham, a former U.S. champion, is finally making his mark after the breakup of **The Four Horsemen** ... Hansen held the belt briefly in 1990, and now is desperate to reclaim the title ... Spivey, viewed by many people as strictly a tag team competitor, established himself as a genuine contender to this belt with his excellent showing against Luger at **Wrestle War '91** ... Simmons has compiled an excellent record against **One Man Gang** and **Butch Reed**, but seems to have geared himself mainly toward challenging **Ric Flair** for the WCW World title.

That's all, folks! Have an opinion about the U.S. and I-C ratings? Got a question or complaint about any other part of our monthly rankings? Send your mail to: "Ratings Analysis," c/o *The Wrestler*, Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571. □

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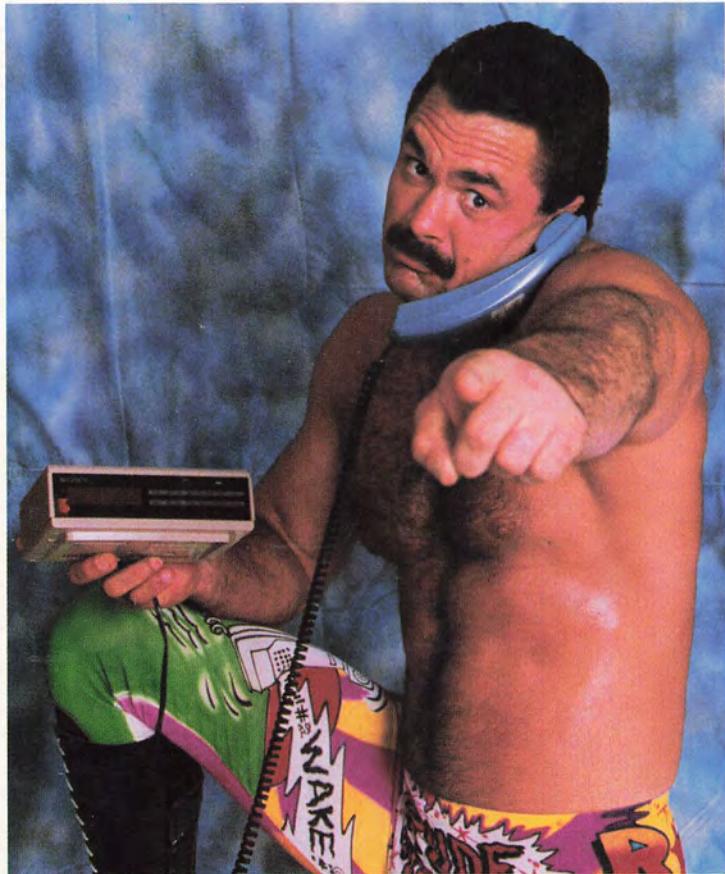
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